

TELEVISION

Viewing public is too passive,
TV producers claim

Every evening millions of people in this country settle before the flickering television screen and feast their eyes on the moving show. "The general public wants to sit passively before the screen and be amused," complains Westdeutscher Rundfunk entertainment programme director Hannes Hoff in an interview with the West German news agency, dpa.

"We should try to make the most of this mass medium of communication, making it of better quality but without making it so boring it comes to resemble a preacher sermonising in an empty church."

"It's a difficult business," pondered Dr Heinz Oepen, a colleague of Hannes Hoff's at WDR. "People in this country do not have the right attitude towards entertainment," he added.

Heinz Oepen comments on this "humourless" attitude. He points out that in four years, "I have made 470 broadcasts, of these in 400 I had the vast masses of the public in mind, in 50 I had journalists in mind and for the remaining twenty I had friends and acquaintances in mind." Heinz Oepen has gone about his work with flare.

"People must be made to watch TV more actively, they must be provoked into thinking about it," Hans Wiegand, producer of the highly popular TV programme "Baff", said at the meeting in Mainz of television critics.

"Entertainment in the future should stir people to think. They should be added to think so that the four hours of viewing in the evening should not be an empty

passing of time, but an essential activity to take up leisure time," he added.

Hans-Otto Grinefeldt, television programme director for Hessischer Rundfunk and chairman of the ARD entertainment planning commission, paraphrased the extreme view as "the conflict of ideologies and the viewers' wishes."

Approximately 41,000 minutes of entertainment were televised last year. This figure amounts to twelve per cent of total television time.

"We are dependent on licence fees and answerable to the public" is the usual excuse made by television producers for the material they bring to our screens.

But what about the viewing minorities? Can they expect to be catered for in future or will they be neglected?

Hannes Hoff said: "We cannot always aim our programmes at the masses. Occasionally we are obliged to cater for the elite. Most of the time our lessons have to be aimed at the slowest in the class, but every once in a while we have just got to go at the speed of the brightest."

And Heinz Oepen said: "You just can't please all the people all the time."

Basically people in this country are heavy. Even in their approach to TV entertainment programmes they are too serious-minded, as research into mass media and the public's reaction to them has revealed.

Reports indicate that Germans tend to think there is something incorrect and shameful in being entertained.



Hans Gerd Wiegand (left) producer of the highly popular TV programme "Baff" and two staff members (Photo: Alexander von Zastrow)

Heinz Hoff says: "People are loath to admit that they like shows." He provides ARD with about 25 per cent of their lighter programmes each year.

As far as television entertainment is concerned the Federal Republic is decidedly an "underdeveloped country." In this country we are unlike Britain and France for instance who temper the good old stars with a quota of up-and-coming young acts as an investment for the future. As a result much of our television entertainment is imported from abroad.

Consequently the pop generation entertainment is largely international and home-grown produce is far from being the best. No one could say that Roy Black is a satisfactory substitute for Tom Jones.

All plans for the future have to take such factors into account but the existing relationship of the programme offer and the results of surveys into the public wants prevent the programme planners and publicity agents from making long-term alterations to plans.

In fact public opinion polls tend to nothing more than underline the status quo. The viewing public does not know what it is missing and thus is unable to do so.

Hoff and Oepen both believe that can educate their audiences. But they must be to make the viewing public independent and help viewers take up the role of partner rather than consumer.

Peter Dyckhoff
(NEUE BÜRGER ZEITUNG, 16 December 1970)

The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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Jarring sails once more
into Mid-East turbulence

As the New York talks between the ambassadors of Israel, Egypt and Jordan under the chairmanship of Swedish mediator Gunnar Jarring are about to recommence the situation in the Middle East shows all the signs of assuming crisis proportions.

Hardly had Dr Jarring left for Jerusalem and an attempt to persuade the Israeli government to show willing but the threat of civil war flared up again in Jordan.

The connection between the two events is clear enough. Palestinian nationalists in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are as afraid of negotiations between the two sides as they are of a resumption of the war.

From Amman the Palestinian Liberation Front has issued a call for assistance in view of an alleged full-scale attack on the north of the country by the Jordanian army.

Its appeal to all Arab states to put a stop to the conspiracy to liquidate Palestinian resistance brings to mind what happened last year when Israel, President Nasser and King Hussein accepted the Rogers Plan for negotiations during a cease-fire period.

The leaders of the so-called Palestinian resistance always play the same rule.

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They try to nip any attempt at negotiations in the bud.

Should there be any serious discussion between the two sides in New York or elsewhere battle will rage and the accompaniment of warfare be heard in Amman, Damascus and insignificant market towns in North Jordan such as Jarash or Irbid. But this alone would not be sufficient cause for the failure of negotiations or talks between Egypt, Jordan and Israel on an extension of the second cease-fire, which

is due to expire on 5 February, a permanent armistice and gradual evacuation of at least the greater part of the areas conquered in 1967 and since occupied by Israel and the reopening of the Suez Canal.

The general scepticism with which the resumption of the Jarring talks is awaited is based on the conflicting aims of the two sides and the reservations they make as they hesitantly, indecisively and unwillingly make their way to New York.

They would all prefer to refuse to take the jump into ice-cold water that General Dayan demands, all being afraid that in the course of negotiations they might eventually, whether as a result of internal or external pressure, be put to disadvantage.

On the other hand they must all jointly seek an alternative to the resumption of battle on the Suez Canal - unless, that is, they want to wage another war.

Israel and Egypt at least now seem to have one thing in common. Both appear to realise that they both have more to lose than to gain from a new campaign or a resumption of the war of attrition.

But the fifth of February is an explosive date. It will take only an ultimatum seriously to jeopardise the prospect of an extension of the cease-fire.

General Dayan, who recently called for substantial frontier corrections, naming four areas that he chose to call non-returnable - East Jerusalem, Gaza, Sharm-el-Sheikh in the Gulf of Aqaba and the Soviet Union on 6 January of moving Russian missiles with a range of forty miles, 250 pieces of heavy artillery and further anti-aircraft missiles up to the twenty-mile cease-fire zone on the west bank of the Canal.

This accusation leaves no doubt as to Israeli anxiety about the increasing reinforcement of the Egyptian Suez Canal front with deeply staggered artillery.

Israel is interested in so conducting the Jarring talks that the cease-fire gradually develops into an unconditional armistice leaving time for the difficult and protracted



New bridge over the Kiel Canal

As part of the new autobahn connecting Hamburg and Flensburg and then northwards into Denmark, a new 1,500-metre long bridge is being thrown across the Kiel Canal. The bridge is scheduled to be ready by 1972.

(Photo: Krupp, Freigabe Landesweg, Schlossweg-Holstein Nr. 511 346-75)

ed negotiations without which even an ersatz peace such as a provisional agreement on gradual evacuation of the Sinai Peninsula could not be expected.

When the occasion warranted Israel could then make Egypt and the Soviet Union the offer of handing over the Sinai bank of the Canal that Suez could then be reopened.

In his latest comments Egyptian President Anwar el Sadat has again shown more restraint than in recent months. This provides a slight hope of the way being opened to serious negotiations and continuation of the cease-fire.

But the Egyptians are afraid that Israel would only like a lasting cease-fire so as to be able to stay at the Canal without a fight and allow time to be on its side in the occupied territories.

Realising this the Israelis know that their policy of holding on to the occupied territories as a pledge, necessary as it is and effective as it seems to be, does have another side to the coin.

This is why Israeli government minister Israel Gull has again mentioned the atmosphere, as he called it, that is needed for talks. What he means is confidence in the readiness and ability of the other side to stick to undertakings it has made.

After the flagrant violations of the 1970 cease-fire agreement it will be up to Egypt and the Soviet Union to prove themselves deserving of confidence, there already no longer being any serious consideration of a withdrawal of anti-aircraft missiles and artillery from the Suez Canal.

This alone would lead to a scaling-down of confrontation and a modus vivendi including a withdrawal from most of the occupied territories.

At the moment pessimism is the order of the day. All concerned seem to be prepared for the new round of talks soon to reach stalemate.

Lothar Ruehl

(DIE WELT, 11 January 1971)

American-Russian
relations strained

Gone are the days when Soviet and American warships, presumably bristling with nuclear warheads, crossed each other's bows, scratched paintwork, and the crews either waved at one another or shook their fists.

This sort of escalation has reverted to a lower level. Soviet facilities in the United States are damaged and their staff molested or threatened.

After a number of vain protests in Washington Moscow decided at the beginning of this year to allow American facilities in the Soviet Union to be subjected to similar treatment. After visiting a Moscow theatre US diplomat R. Mark Palmer was surrounded by a group

of young people and his tie pulled. In order to eliminate the risk of misunderstanding he was told this was a case of lit for tat. So as likely as not there is more to come.

The political background against which this is happening is, of course, more serious. The campaign in America against trials of Jews in the Soviet Union and the Soviet campaign against the trial of Angela Davis merely serve to obscure the facts.

Washington and Moscow are voicing profounder differences of opinion on virtually all aspects of world affairs by other means. Both sides again have a deep distrust of one another.

This augurs ill for Bonn's policy towards the Eastern Bloc, which needs good will on both sides in order to reach a Berlin settlement.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 January 1971)

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■ OSTPOLITIK

Berlin question stimulates sense and a lot of nonsense

DIE ZEIT

The send that is being cast in every one's eyes is making Berlin, the issue of 1971, gradually disappear under a cloud spread by purveyors of rumours and tales of woe.

Irresponsible and untruthful stuff is being spread about and to maintain by way of explanation that the cold winter weather has brought with it a death of news is just not good enough.

The Opposition has launched a campaign against Bonn's policy towards the Eastern Bloc that is based entirely on suppositions. The Christian Democratic and Christian Social Unions (CDU/CSU) and their allies among the mass media are cheerfully continuing a policy that manoeuvres the country into a dead end in the first place.

They are going on as though the Federal government were in the process of going back on its declared intention of making ratification of the Moscow and Warsaw treaties dependent on a satisfactory outcome to the Four-Power talks on Berlin.

They are going on as though the government were so watering down its requirements of a satisfactory solution to the Berlin question that in the final analysis there are no longer any objections to Herr Ulbricht's further-reaching demands.

They are going on as though Bonn's new policy towards the Eastern Bloc had plunged relations with America into a profound crisis and above all as though the Opposition did not know perfectly well what the score was.

Instead of leonically and objectively annihilating the Opposition's bluff the ruling coalition is talking, in the size of the winter recess, with many and ambiguous tongues. It is misguidedly leaving itself open to too much misinterpretation.

Horst Eismke, Minister of State at the Chancellor's Office, surrounds his visit to Washington with an aura of secrecy — adding fuel to the fire of rumour of bad blood between Bonn and Washington — even though the whole thing was arranged long ago.

The government departs from its previous view that talks between the two Germanies on Berlin traffic could only be held at the behest of the Four Powers, so strengthening rumours that the change of view on procedure reflects a change of view on the fundamental matters at stake.

The government's New Year message was one of complaisant optimism casting no realistic light on the difficulties Walter Ulbricht is creating. Again a number of people entertain doubt as to its firmness. And the main speaker the government sends into the fray is none other than Herbert Wehner, a man whose smoke-filled language can only cloud over further the real facts of the matter.

Sad to say this is a repetition of the situation last June. The CDU/CSU is opposing the government regardless of the losses in terms of truth and clarity and the coalition is seeking refuge in feeble verbiage. Yet the facts of the matter are straightforward enough.

Fact No. 1: There is no such thing as a Bonn stand on the Berlin question any more than there is of an American, British or French. Since mid-November there has been an agreed Western approach that even goes into detail of the form: a

settlement of the Berlin question is to take.

There can certainly be no talk of differences of opinion between the Federal government in Bonn and the three Western Powers on the contents of a satisfactory settlement to the Berlin question and no one familiar with the documents is claiming any such thing.

Incidentally, people with inside knowledge of the negotiations report that Bonn's representatives in the Berlin talks showed a firmness that took many an ally by surprise.

Rainer Barzel, Christian Democratic parliamentary party leader, must be well aware of this fact since he is kept fairly and squarely in the picture by the government.

Fact No. 2: Regardless of the agreement in principle on the substance of a solution to the Berlin question Bonn and its allies do differ as to the speed negotiations ought to take.

Bonn is interested in negotiating swiftly and without undue delay for one good reason. It is afraid that the GDR will make use of every break to throw a spanner in the works.

This is why the Federal government is pressing for the talks to be accelerated and why it has proposed that the Berlin talks between the ambassadors of the Four Powers be changed into a permanent conference on Berlin as soon as negotiations reach the stage where there is any point in so doing.

Were the Four-Power talks to assume a conference-like character there would be a permanent working staff of specialists from the respective capital cities. The result would be the elimination of much delay at present caused by ponderous coordination mechanisms.

Fact No. 3: No one need be surprised that Bonn and Washington are not in complete agreement all of the time or all along the line. Their interests naturally diverge at times.

For America Berlin is only one of many problems. For this country it has absolute priority. The United States as a great power would like to make its own provisos. Dr Kissinger now has to adapt his concept of linkages to a move from elsewhere.

This is awkward, to say the least, particularly as not even America can readily break off the Berlin talks any longer now that Willy Brandt has made the fate of the Moscow and Warsaw treaties dependent on their outcome.

The Americans may also be plagued by an uneasy conscience. For once they are confronted with a preview of how they

might be forced into this wings if they adhere to President Nixon's policy of a partial pull-out.

What is more, sarcastic pensioners such as Dean Acheson and George Ball are not the only ones to feel a shudder of horror at the prospect of this country ending its attachment to the United States.

It little matters that all Bonn is doing is trying to avert a danger that America promised to protect it from partly because the undertaking secured permanent rights of control over Germany for Uncle Sam.

Fact No. 4: Essential common interests nevertheless are and remain more powerful than any differences of this kind. For America Berlin continues to be the touchstone of its own credibility and international reputation and as far as West Berlin is concerned the Americans, British and French remain the guarantors of its survival in freedom.

This at least cannot be explained and interpreted away and no Federal government in Bonn can afford to ignore the fact.

But Brandt and Scheel trying to prevent Four-Power status from becoming a pretext for diplomatic inactivity in the way that the Adenauer and Erhard administrations used it as a pretext for their own inactivity on the German question is by no means synonymous with an attempt by Bonn to restrict or weaken this status.

Fact No. 5: There can be no Berlin settlement without negotiations between Bonn and East Berlin and there is little point in arguing whether they must be on the basis of a Four-Power directive to the two German states, a three-power mandate to Bonn and a Soviet mandate to East Berlin or a reference, note, communiqué or oral communication as the absolute minimum.

What matters is not the nature of the directive but its framework. The Four Powers must first themselves reach agreement on the basis of an access and transit agreement. Then the two German states must reach agreement on the technical details of an agreement of this kind. This agreement must finally be incorporated in a Four-Power agreement.

These, then are the facts on which Bonn's policies — those of both government and Opposition — must be based. Dramatisation of any kind would be a mistake.

There is no point in artificially adding fuel to the fire of foreign policy controversies for the sake of cheap domestic policy effects. On Berlin Bonn must not lose its nerves.

Straight talking from Klaus Schütz on Berlin talks



It is not the first time Berlin's Governing Mayor Klaus Schütz has called a spade a spade. At a press conference on 7 January he noted that it could be useful not to attach too much importance to the verbal concept of Berlin talks between the two Germanies being held under the aegis of the Four Powers.

No one seriously objects to talks of this kind. For weeks it has been a matter of

finding a formula both retaining Four-Power responsibility and meeting halfway the Soviet wish for the sovereignty of the GDR to be taken into account.

The Berlin entry-permit talks have already shown that legal auxiliary formulas are possible as long as there is a will not to allow negotiations to founder on formalities.

There is no point in making a mountain out of a molehill. What matters is, when all is said and done, to retain Four-Power responsibility and have them ultimately responsible for any agreement reached.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 8 January 1971)

For the government this means nothing of this country's alienation. Opposition at home that the Union will not in any case be piece countenance.

It requires of the Opposition does not rob the government of opportunity of peacefully and probing what the Soviet Union is prepared to accept and what it can make Berlin stomach.

The CDU/CSU ought not to see on the failure of policy towards Eastern Bloc. The Social and Free Democratic coalition ought not to impose deadlines and compulsion with success on itself.

It would be a disaster for Republic politics if it were to retreat behind the Moscow and Warsaw treaties, to quote Herbert Wehner, a quotation calls for a certain amount of interpretation.

It would be a disaster if, despite agreement on Berlin that viewed a harsh but true light of day could be considered satisfactory, the treaties would not be approved by a majority of Bundestag, and to fail to do so because of nonrealisation of relations between the two German states were still forthcoming.

Old line of argument

At this point the Christian Democrats in trying to add an all-German provision to the Berlin proviso, are reverting to barren cliché of old that a solution to German problem must precede any laxation of tension.

This will not do. The inter-German game is being played at another level and a write-off of the treaties by the failure of people in this country realise the fact could indeed be catastrophic consequences.

It would, on the other hand, not disaster for the treaties to remain unfixed because the East refuses to accept reasonable agreement on Berlin. If Brandt could weather the storm that done his best.

The general public is objective and to credit him with the attempt with blaming him for its failure. After all has what Adenauer failed to do in 1952, an abili of good will.

Certain of this fact the Chancellor continue to pursue his policy: swift, without haste, ready to come to understanding but not prepared to encourage the Allies but pestering them, not disinclined to common cause with the Opposition not inclined either to reach agreement on the basis of ineffectively and vague warning.

Theo Sommer

(DIE ZEIT, 8 January 1971)

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RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Catholic synod gets off to a good start

Stiddeutsche Zeitung



Synod president Julius Cardinal Döpfner with (from the left) vice-presidents Harry Fischer, Dr. Barnhard Sarvetius, Bishop Stein and Hanna Renata Laurin at Würzburg (Photo: AP)

Catholic bishops of the Federal Republic who have called into being a synod for all bishoprics were taking a risky step which even they viewed with great scepticism.

At the conference in Würzburg they shut themselves away into a kind of voluntary ghetto. They dwelt together, ate together and sat at the conference table as a united interest group.

They followed the opening discussions with anxiety etched on their faces and an observer might have quoted the Bible: "Fear not..."

Most of them had in the meantime left Würzburg with their souls far less troubled and their faces less anxious and Cardinal Döpfner was probably expressing the views of most of those involved and the observers when he said at the closing press conference with a sigh of relief: "A style has been set for the synod. I believe we have made a good start."

His opinion was shared by many of those critics who, before the proceedings began, held little hope that a place would be found where the smouldering conflicts in the Church can be discussed fairly and openly. The first few days of the conference showed that Catholics can set such great expectations by the synod.

The progressives as well as the conservatives have proved that they are ready to take part in talks and make compromises. In good democratic style the participants at the conference elected a presidium for the synod and a central committee (an effective body with 25 members), which is open to reforms suggested and yet gives carefully considered representation to the most important interest groups in Catholicism in this country.

In this favourable atmosphere it was just as possible for a student for the priesthood who had criticised comment to offer to gain a majority as it was for the two spectacular failures in the election of the presidium, Bishop Hengsbach of Essen, who acted as spokesman for the conservatives, and Klaus Hemmerle, the spiritual leader of the central committee of Catholics in this country.

Readiness to cooperate and not waste time and efforts in pointless trials of strength was evident too in the amendments to the orders of procedure. Despite the pleasing outcome of this conference it should not be forgotten that a favourable starting point is decisive for the forthcoming debates on the real problems of the day.

The items on the agenda for the ten special committees are so humbly based that there is no subject that cannot come up for discussion. Members of the synod must, however, be clear in their minds that the public is not expecting a resolution to be passed at every conceivable juncture nor is a wise and carefully considered guideline expected from them on every theme under the sun.

Catholics and Catholic communities will nevertheless be expecting answers to the questions that have been asked for some time now repeatedly (which are not necessarily always the most important questions). These topics are priestly celibacy, reform of the priesthood, participation of laymen in the running and administration of the Church, sex, morals and marriage, re-marriage of people divorced, amendments to the sacraments (above all baptism and confession), and Church teachings (religious instruction, sermons and the like).

There seemed to be so many items on the agenda, however, that the synod is in danger of falling behind schedule if the next plenary meeting is to be held as hoped in the spring of 1972 and not postponed till the autumn.

On the one hand too many things will be forgotten or overlooked by the synod if nearly two years are allowed to elapse between its formation and the next

Catholics questioned about their faith and their Church

The "silent majority" of Catholics in this country, 65 per cent of them, hope one day that the Church will permit divorce, according to a survey conducted by the Ifak Institute in Wiesbaden.

Almost a similar percentage of people asked hoped that one day the Church would allow divorced people to marry. These facts were made public in a programme presented by the second television channel in this country entitled, "Where does Catholicism in this country stand today?" on 6 January.

The Wiesbaden research institute took five principles as a criticism for applying the expression "silent majority". Only when these five questions were answered in the affirmative were the subjects given further questions.

The five principles are: "From childhood I have felt at home in the Church — I feel protected in my church — Religious services are for me unmistakably the point around which my life revolves — I remain today fully trusting of those who are called to lead the Church — Unrest in the Church will be damaging to it."

Approximately 43 per cent of Catholics agreed with these five principles. Of this group 61 per cent were women. 65 per cent of them go to church every Sunday and sometimes on weekdays too, and the greater number of them live in districts with less than 20,000 inhabitants.

According to the Wiesbaden research institute 57 per cent of the "silent majority" feel that in a mixed marriage a Protestant mother should raise her children as Protestants.

Another fact shown by the second television channel programme was that the more people go to church the more they are politically inclined towards the Christian Democrats.

(DIE WELT, 6 January 1971)

FDP branch meeting forestalls split

At the traditional Epiphany conference the Free Democrats in the south-west of this country were able to bridge the gap between the conservative and progressive wings of the party, the latter being represented mainly by Young Democrats.

After stormy debating the main bone of contention, social welfare policies, was buried by means of a compromise.

The delegates passed on for further discussion by the central party committee a draft social welfare policy concept that had been drawn up by a special committee. This would provide for a basic

pension for every citizen of this country, compulsory insurance for all self-employed people and measures to allow workers to accumulate capital wealth.

The reason for passing on this motion was obviously that such far-reaching decisions with regard to social welfare policy could not be taken by a single state party branch but only by the central FDP committee.

This strategy appears to have granted the south-west FDP branch a limited breather. But the liberals will not be able to postpone for ever a precise answer to the social welfare problems of our times.

It is also doubtful whether the compromise reached at the Epiphany conference will preserve the party for long from a tug-of-war.

At the meeting in Stuttgart deep differences of opinion on basic questions were all too clear.

Will the new state chairman of the FDP, Karl Moersch, 44-year-old parliamentary State Secretary at the Foreign Office, succeed like his predecessor Hermann Müller, in binding together the divergent wings of the party and preventing a split down the middle?

(CHRIST UND WELT, 8 January 1971)

Much-travelled Minister

Someone in the Foreign Office who obviously believes in the power of a public image has worked out that his "boss" Foreign Minister Walter Scheel flew no less than 156,929 kilometres (98,080 miles approximately), the equivalent of four times round the world.

Some of the places that the Federal Republic's flying Minister has visited in 1970 are Paris, Moscow, Rome, Oslo,

Copenhagen, Warsaw, Brussels, Luxembourg, Madrid, Vienna, Belgrade, London, New York, Washington, Kuwait, Karachi, Bangkok, Singapore, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Seoul, New Delhi, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Guatemala City.

Other records set up by hard-working Walter Scheel were 339 hours spent at the conference table and 149 official dinners.

(DIE ZEIT, 8 January 1971)

■ 2000 A.D.

Young people are optimistic of the future, survey indicates

Two-thirds of the people of this country living at present can expect to see the year 2000. We are now only 29 years away from the next millennium. But despite all the efforts of futurologists the imagination and fantasy of the man-in-the-street is obviously not capable of picturing what life will be like in 2000 A.D.

Public opinion pollsters who have questioned people on this theme found that the answers were general and tended towards cautious optimism.

Thirty per cent of people in this country, according to the Wickert Research Institute in Tübingen consider that before the next millennium, perhaps as soon as 1980, the standard of living in the Federal Republic will have doubled.

Also of those nineteen-year-olds who were questioned recently by investigators from the magazine *Wen* 26 per cent think that this country will be more prosperous by the year 2000.

However, taken individually people's opinions do seem to contain an element of pessimism. No fewer than 41 per cent consider that the Federal Republic will slip even further behind Japan as an industrial nation.

The nineteen-year-olds seem to think along similar lines. In the survey carried out by the Divo Institute in Frankfurt on behalf of *Wen* one young man who plans to become a computer programmer made no bones about it that he was unlikely to remain in the Federal Republic to pursue his career.

"In the year 2000 this country will not play a major role in the technological world. Vital developments are taking place where the technological potentiality is greatest. The technological potentiality will be greatest where the best opportunities for individual development are offered."



ed. The best opportunities for individual development are offered where there is the most money. The most money is to be found where the greatest technological potentiality is used to the best effect. This is a merry-go-round on which this country is not to be found. Opportunities for a technological education are lacking here." Thus spoke the 19 year-old.

Is it optimism or a conscious or unconscious refusal to try to imagine the unimaginable that makes ninety-five per cent of the nineteen-year-olds feel that there will not be another world war before the end of this century?

In the older generations, according to Wickert, one in ten thinks that somewhere in the world there will be a nuclear war, but only three in every hundred think that there will be a World War III. In both age groups optimists are in a great majority.

Nevertheless many are well aware that by the year 2000 A.D. the world will be facing a number of extremely tricky problems.

One in three of the nineteen-year-olds in the *Wen* survey expects that the gap between the have and have-not countries will widen and become monumental. One in four visualises a world that is hopelessly overpopulated. Again one in four is of the opinion that Red China will become the dominant world power.

Forty-four per cent of the nineteen-year-olds feel sure that by the end of this century Germany will be irrevocably divided. Or to look at it from other point

of view only seven per cent of these young people consider that Germany will be one again by the year 2000. (Of the older generation eight per cent expect reunification.)

As far as domestic policies are concerned most of those asked in the survey expect things to continue gradually along the same lines. Almost all of those in the nineteen-year-old age group who were taking part in the survey feel that it is highly unlikely that there will be a different social setup evolved in the Federal Republic in the next thirty years.

Only three per cent consider it feasible that a communist system could take over in this country. Two per cent only would not rule out the possibility of a right-wing extremist party in Bonn.

The Wickert Institute survey has given an indication of what citizens of this country expect in the way of developments in civilisation and technology.

Every other person in this country believes that in the foreseeable future there will be a cure for cancer. The forecast that the working week will be reduced to four days seems realistic to 22 per cent. Thirty per cent consider it possible that television will offer five or more channels.

Health Minister Käthe Strobel spoke of a successful war on cancer back in the days of the Grand Coalition when she was interviewed by the Sunday newspaper *Bild am Sonntag* about her vision of life at the turn of the millennium. She also felt that the "stupid, sniffing colds that lose us so many working days at present will be conquered."

The politicians interviewed by *Bild am Sonntag* at that time included Georg Leber, Hermann Höcherl, Werner Dollinger and Hans Katzer. They too gazed long and hard at the crystal ball.

There was talk of vest roads with electronic steering system, the possibility of covering vast tracts of land with crop palaces made of glass or plastic so that crops could be grown all the year round, pocket telephones and transmission letters by radio directly into the home. Forecasts were made of doubled spending power and ever increasing leisure time. These politicians saw in their crystal ball a far-ranging technological paradise.

As far as the internal structure of society in 2000 A.D. is concerned, the ministerial predictions were not particularly explicit. Nor did they give an indication about the attitudes people are lived to and beyond the year 2000 will adopt to life.

Even if surveys were conducted on a point imaginings would obviously not be so prolific as to forecast the state of mind of individuals in the conditions like to be prevailing in the year 2000.

The *Wen* survey did however produce a few pointers. In 2000 A.D. people want to rule their own lives and not be dependent. One young girl questioned in this survey said: "The thing I expect the future is to remain free and independent, to do a good half-day's work and have to answer to no one except myself."

This corresponds closely to the answer noted by the Divo research people. After half the young people asked by Divo their vision of the future said that they expected no one to tell them what to do. The nineteen-year-olds seemed to apply the same principles to the education of their children. 79 per cent wanted the children to take a standpoint and defend it in a matter-of-fact way. 83 per cent said that their children should make important decisions independently.

Twelve reports that the interviews often involved discussions running into hours. One of the interviewers said afterwards: "We discovered an idealism that was aiming for abstract transcendental goals but aiming to improve the world in which we will live. This idealism appears alive since it takes the clichés of the older generation by the throat."

Carl Christian Kaiser
(DIE ZEIT, 1 January 1971)

GDR newspaper invites young people to dinner - on 8 January 2000!

quite possible that I will be on a business trip to Moscow, Prague or Warsaw..." Norbert Grosser, a soldier from Stahnsdorf, said: "People will have changed with the times. They will be more friendly and open. No will to lord it over his fellow men. The busdriver will be as highly respected as the professor."

Ralf Jeschonnek, a schoolboy from Neuenhagen, plans to be a doctor. He said: "My first patient today will be from Angola, one of the last countries in the world to free itself from the shackles of colonialism. But the heritage of dominance by white men from the West will have left its mark on him. In Angola there will not be compulsory inoculation against carcinogens which will have been the practice for the past ten years in Socialist countries, following the discovery of a vaccine by a Soviet scientific collective. Cancer vaccination will be an everyday affair also in the GDR (formerly Socialist Republic)."

Wolfgang Zierold, a shoemaker, from Oelnitz, said: "By the year 2000 I shall have been a pensioner for two years since the 13th party conference in 1991 will have lowered the retirement age to 60. Nevertheless I shall be active as the party secretary for the Society of Shoemakers."

Hans-Michael Bauch, a student from Hohen Neuendorf, reports: "At my firm today there was a delegation from the

transport academy. They brought welcome news of the success of the fully automated stretch of railway from Cairo to Accra. This delegation will be given our report on the stretch of railway line from Berlin to Norilsk... During a break I will read a newspaper by means of the telecommunications device. I shall be reading about the glorious revolution in France under the guidance of the French Communist Party."

Peter Wawerzinek, a schoolboy from Rerik, said: "I shall be flying over the countries released from the bonds of capitalism. Soon I shall be looking at the greatest grain-producing area on earth, the former Sahara Desert. We will be flying over the highly developed nations of Africa that have been aided by Socialist States. We will have just heard the news that for the first time the Soviet Union has succeeded in controlling weather conditions for a year."

Another schoolboy, Wolfgang Loos, said: "Our computer will have just worked out the data for the construction of steering devices in the new intercontinental rocket produced by the Warsaw Pact armed forces, which now comprise twenty nations. Today's results will be communicated by me to the central research institute in Moscow by means of long-range data communication equipment."

Apprentice Ulrich Trumbold from Glauchau said: "I will be working in New

Delhi on the production lines of the Indian delta combine, a branch of the FG/AS 2300 space station."

Industrial sales adviser Birbel Gellmann, 25, from Treuen, forecast 8 January 2000 in this manner: "I'm honest I have not yet got completely used to the new simplified orthography but I think this saves the children a lot of hard work and the teachers a lot of ink. The reform of German spelling was introduced after the unification of the two German States into one republic - Socialist of course."

Christine Münzberg from Wachau predicted: "About ten o'clock my son will be given a cuff on the ear from my robot. I will teach the machine that this is no way to go about teaching and will switch its electronic brain to the educational methods of Makarenko."

However the young citizens of the GDR do not always go about their day-dreaming in such an ideologically impeccable manner.

Volker Balk, an apprentice from Schlitz, mused: "I will be on a long journey and on the way I will meet many beautiful girls."

A schoolgirl from Berlin complains: "I can hear the loud humming of the personal hygiene machine. I cannot stand this automated washing. I think we should at least take care of our own personal cleanliness."

One girl wrote: "I like the easy life. I will be sitting with my legs stretched out under a table looking straight ahead of

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■ CENTREPIECE

German exiles in the Soviet Union - a problematic minority group



"Above Moscow stands only the Kremlin, and above the Kremlin the heavens."

The Germans who moved into the area around what is today Leningrad, the historical Inkermanland, including Oranienbaum, Kronstadt and Peterhof, other Germans settled in Chemigov and Voinosch.

The greatest number of Germans who came to Russia during the reign of Catherine II settled along the Volga around Saratov and founded more than a hundred villages and townships.

Later on a second wave of Germans immigrated to Russia again at the invitation of the Tsarina and founded sprawling settlements around the Black Sea between Bessarabia and the Crimea.

These industrious Russian Germans quickly earned respect and gained prosperity by dint of hard work. Their comparative prosperity led to a kind of population explosion and they had to spread their wings and establish new settlements.

The Germans from the Volga trekked in the nineteenth century to the foothills of the Urals and Dobruja, which was then Turkey. Through all this time, however, the Germans retained their culture and above all their language.

Catherine II generously granted them self-government which gave them plenty of room for manoeuvre. The situation changed, however, after 1871 when the privileges of the Germans were gradually withdrawn. Among other things exemption from military service was rescinded.

As a protest against these measures many Mennonites who had moved from Donzig and settled in the Black Sea area packed their bags and emigrated to Canada and America.

When the First World War broke out the situations of these emigrant Germans became increasingly more acute. They were suspected as a whole of being traitors to their adoptive home and of sympathising with the Kaiser's Germany.

They were dishonourably discharged from the Tsarist army and the men were redirected to work camps. Finally legislation was passed dispossessing the Russian Germans.

Many of them were saved from their fate by the October Revolution in 1917. In the Kerenky era there were the first congresses of "Russian Citizens with

German Nationality" and these exiled Germans succeeded in winning for themselves slight concessions.

After the October Revolution, however, the picture changed. Famine spread and there were riots and persecution which brought the German minority in Russia to the verge of destruction.

Not until 1924 when the later governing Mayor of Berlin, Ernst Reuter, took an active stand for his exiled compatriots was the "Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of the Volga Germans" set up.

Just a few years later when the collective farms were forcibly set up there were new difficulties for this minority and by 1930 thousands of Russian Germans had decided to return to their homeland.

However, only a relatively small group - something in the region of 5,000 - realised this aim. The vast majority stayed where they were and although innocent of all that was happening around them they were involved in the bloody toils of the Second World War.

Stalin dissolved the Volga Republic overnight in 1941 and in the most appalling circumstances sent this group of people to Siberia.

The Black Sea Germans suffered a slightly kinder fate. The Germans pushed the front through their territory and they had a brief spell of respite on their own territory. Later they were able to return to Germany surrounded and protected by the Third Reich's armed forces.

Some, however, could not escape in time and were overtaken by the Red Army. Their fate was the same as that of the Volga Germans. They, too, were banished to Siberia.

Many other Germans from Galicia, Wolyn, Bessarabia and the Baltic areas were captured by the Russians in Wartheland and in West Prussia. They, too, disappeared to Siberia.

For many years the fate of the Russian Germans was uncertain. Only in 1955 when Konrad Adenauer visited Moscow was there an amnesty for this group granted by Nikita Khrushchev.

Khrushchev allowed them modest con-

cessions and they had the same rights as Soviet citizens, but he would not allow them to return to their former territories on the Baltic and Black Sea.

The Russian Germans and the repatriated, *Volksdeutsche* from Wolyn and Bessarabia have been living since then in widely dispersed groups between Baikal and Kasachstan, between Alma Ata and Yakutsk, between the far eastern territories of the Soviet Union and the lands on the border with Afghanistan.

The situation of these exiled Germans has, however, improved considerably following a decree by the Supreme Soviet in 1964. Radio Moscow now broadcasts programmes in the German language and a number of regional radio stations such as Radio Omsk in Western Siberia and the Barnaul broadcasting station in the Altai district broadcast to the German minority group in their own language.

Stations in Karaganda and Koshchatskij even put on special television programmes for the Russian Germans.

In addition to this there is, to a certain extent, a cultural life for the Germans, for instance a German ensemble in the Karaganda Philharmonia. There are also choirs and to a lesser extent literary pursuits for the exiles. Though these are but a drop in the ocean of cultural life in the Soviet Union they are maintained keenly by the Germans.

A publishing house in Moscow has brought out two anthologies of lyric poetry by Russian Germans and there are one or two minor journals in the German language such as *Neues Leben* in Moscow, and in Kasachstan the four-page broadsheet *Freundschaft*, which appears five times weekly. In Siberia there is the publication *Rote Fahne*.

The outlines of the freedom granted to the German exiles in Russia are very clearly defined, but as workers they are in great demand on account of their diligence and reliability.

In spite of this many of the Russian Germans are toying with the idea of coming to the Federal Republic if they are given the opportunity.

It is thought that there have been as many as 300,000 applications for resettlement.

However, when it is borne in mind that after the end of the War half a million Germans managed to flee from eastern and south-eastern Europe and that the percentage of Russian Germans in this exodus was under five the chances of the applicants can be gauged fairly accurately.

It is highly unlikely that the Russians will allow the deep-rooted Germans from the Volga and Black Sea areas to "come home".

The report that the Soviet Union intends to allow between 8,000 and 10,000 *Volksdeutsche* and *Reichsdeutsche* to come to Germany, if true, probably means that small splinter groups such as the Germans from Memel and East Prussia remaining there will be freed.

Other groups that might be released are the Germans from Wolyn and Bessarabia who got stuck in the Soviet Union after the War and above all the so-called *Reichsdeutsche* who fell into Soviet hands in 1945.

So, it seems highly unlikely that there will be a mass exodus and a far-reaching resettlement programme. It will be more like the reunification of members of a family, which, 25 years after the War signifies little more than a touch of the milk of human kindness on the Russians' part.

Hans Ulrich Engel
(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 2 January 1971)

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me. I will press a button and watch as house after house emerges ready-built from the Indian Ocean."

"The inhabitants of a satellite town have been treated with gas overnight which means that when they wake up they are made much more pleasant, another dream runs."

Corporal Renner is very cautious: "Carefully I put on my heated shoes. The rechargeable battery has been charged up for the day while I was sleeping."

Even in the year 2000 Germans will be as much as ever animal lovers. One wrote: "After dinner we can play with our pet. It is a dolphin."

On the other hand a schoolgirl from Oelsnitz complained: "Our pet bear has stomach ache since even in the year 2000 people have not learned to refrain from feeding animals."

Professor Max Steenbeck, the chairman of the research committee in the GDR, has been following the *Junge Welt* day-dreams with close interest but with an essential degree of criticism.

For him visions of the future depend

greatly on advances in the sciences and technology. He is not concerned with the moral and spiritual, or to put it bluntly ideological, aspects. He writes: "The statement that people in our society in 2000 A.D. will have a real opportunity to put their ideas into practice is as such incorrect. Ideas that are put into practice will be those that benefit the Socialist society as a whole, and that means a sensible selection from what is feasible in the sciences and technology."

"Anything that is only of benefit to a small sector and is useless or even damaging for society as a whole will not be put into practice in the GDR."

The editors of *Junge Welt* take the same line. There will never be skivvy robots in the Socialist GDR, they write. If cleaning must be done then it may well be through a central vacuum cleaning facility.

State boundaries will "in all probability" still exist since there will probably still be "imperialist" countries. Sweeping away national boundaries is not something that can be achieved in the next three decades, they write.

One of the most difficult things to visualise, according to *Junge Welt*, will be how people change. How, in their opinion, will the GDR citizens of 2000 A.D. appear? Even if there are ten television channels he must not spend every evening watching thrillers. "For the future we require people who have self-respect, who refuse to better themselves at the cost of others, and for whom egoism, envy, haughtiness and self-satisfaction are unknown."

In the year 2000 people will need "a firm belief in Socialist ideas of equality and a deep scientific insight into how society hangs together so that they can act accordingly. With this as a basis" the paper maintains, "valuable characteristics such as courage, stamina, love of the truth, modesty, righteousness, honour and self-control will be part of the Socialist personality."

Five hundred of these personalities will be banqueting on 8 January 2000 with the staff of *Junge Welt*. A data worth watching.

Hans von Kienheim
(DIE ZEIT, 1 January 1971)

MASS MEDIA

Television initiates investigation into brutality and violence on the screen

Frankfurter Rundschau

The first shot is a bull's eye and the gangster falls covered in blood, cracking his skull on an iron railing. The camera pans to the second gangster as the gunmen takes aim.

It depends on the television producer whether the criminal dies in like manner or is only arrested. It also depends on whether he has remembered what American scientists have discovered - violence shown on television affects viewers.

But other scientists disagree, claiming that brutality has no negative effect. This country's television service now plans to find out which of these two views is correct. It is not only American thrillers that provide the blood on television here. There is also a trend towards horror in home-made productions.

"The act of violence is shown in all its drastic detail but the consequences, the pain, suffering and injury of the victim are ignored," claims Professor Heinrich Popitz, head of Freiburg University's department of sociology. "If viewers saw the results of aggression, they would soon lose all pleasure in it."

Professor Popitz has examined the results of investigations into this subject in America and concludes that this difference is the difference between thrilling and shocking.

He is not alone in this view. An important ally of his is Professor Karl Holzner, director general of ZDF, this country's second television service.

The ZDF has now drawn up a comprehensive inventory of the results of American research on the subject of the effects of violence on television.

In an interview with the Evangelical Press Service, Professor Holzner said that it was important to show the results of brutality as well and these were precisely what were missing in American television productions.

They will be missing for quite some time. The sensitive programme compilers in America want to protect their viewers from being shocked as they would be if they saw the cracked skulls and other results of the exciting thrillers they watch.

Hella Keller and Imme Horn, both employees of ZDF, compiled the results of foreign research into the subject which confirm that violence is frequent in television programmes in the United States.

The ZDF survey will also be used as the basis for a thorough investigation into the effects of television brutality in the Federal Republic. ARD and ZDF, the two television services, plan to carry out a joint investigation.

The results from America have convinced those people responsible for television programmes in this country that an investigation of this type is necessary.

Even though television in America is commercial and works along different lines, American television series can often be seen on TV screens in this country.

Apart from children's programmes and family serials, the ZDF always has nine American Western or crime series on its schedules. The ARD too has its fair share of American crime.

Professor Popitz has said that the proposals for an investigation in this country is meant to be a vindication of television companies here.

It is not only TV experts who find the American figures alarming. Hella Keller analysed the results of an investigation by Dr George Gerbner of the University of Pennsylvania.

Violence occurred in 81 per cent of the 183 American programmes examined by Dr Gerbner. It could be seen in 97 per cent of crime films, 94 per cent of the cartoons and even in 66 per cent of the comedies.

Programmes set in the past such as *Bonanza* have a violence rate of 98 per cent, those set in the present have a 74 per cent rate while the figure for programmes set in the future is 100 per cent.

Dr Gerbner concludes that a typical scene of violence in a typical American television programme is that of a violent America with a violent past and an even more violent future.

The ZDF study does not state whether TV violence has any effect on the viewer. It only lists the contradictory theories of American researchers, ranging from those who claim that TV violence stimulates aggression to those who claim that it has a neutral or even inhibiting effect.

Professor Popitz does not agree with this comparison of theories. "Together with the repeated reference to the contradictions of the research results, this division into three groups gives the impression that research has not got anywhere in the past."

Professor Popitz states the two central theories:

1. "The depiction of violence stimulates the viewer's aggressive behaviour. This stimulation also occurs as a direct learning process: new types of aggressive behaviour are learnt."

This theory is supported by the results

of research by a team consisting of Albert Bandura, Dorothea and Sheila A. Ross. The team showed children a scene where an adult maltreated a life-size doll.

Afterwards the children were allowed to play with expensive toys. But just as they were about to start playing the toys were taken away from them.

The disappointed children reacted by being violent towards the doll. Their conduct was similar to that of the adult. All the team's results showed that children who have observed aggression will copy it to a large extent. This is more true of the boys than the girls.

2. "Seeing frequent depictions of violence leads to habituation and the viewer is no longer so sensitive towards acts of violence. Habituation increases the likelihood of a viewer's own aggression as well as the likelihood that he will look at acts of violence committed against others with indifference and without reacting."

Professor Gerds, head of Frankfurt University's criminological department, says, "Along with other factors, television can have an effect. In certain circumstances personality can be moulded or even changed if the viewer always watches certain programmes."

Professor Gerds warns against too superficial a judgement of television and the effect it can have but believes that negative effects are possible as many crime series have nothing to do with reality.

But, the Professor stresses, a film cannot make a criminal out of a law-abiding person. There can be no direct link between a crime film on television and a subsequent act of violence.

The survey is obviously not intended to blame television for crimes of violence and brutality. Professor Popitz states that

Cinema-going attitudes cost the cinema dearly

Every day for the past ten years a cinema has switched off its projectors and closed its doors for the last time. There may well have been too many cinemas in 1959 - 7,085 - as Dr Loppin, the chairman of the Film Distributors' Association claims. "Any Tom, Dick or Harry wanting to invest his money in the fifties opened a cinema, whether the market was saturated or not."

But now there are too few cinemas - about 3,500 - especially outside the large cities. Only eight per cent of all communities in the Federal Republic have a cinema.

In Britain and the United States the decline of the cinemas has already levelled out and statistics are promising.

But we in the Federal Republic are still far away from this point. Little is being done to improve the situation. None of those people blamed - the distributors, television and the cinema owners - are prepared for reforms.

Recently it is the distributors who have been the target of attacks - even from their own ranks. Helmut Bleiborn, head of the Munich Film Distributors' Association, has recommended self-criticism and blames the growing lack of interest in the cinema on the antiquated and reactionary practices of distribution and performance.

"It is simply nonsensical," he says, "that a film is kept on so long at the large city-centre cinemas that the cinemas in

the suburbs whose existence is threatened cannot make much money out of it when it finally reaches them.

"It is little wonder that a successful film does little running for six or twelve months in the city centre."

Distributors get 43 per cent of the gross takings from both the large and small cinemas but the large cinemas not only have more seats but also higher prices. Eighty per cent of the money is taken in by 500 large cinemas.

The 300 cinemas here that put on film premieres are so powerful that they can prevent distributors from putting on the same film two weeks later in a second cinema in the suburbs.

The cinemas with the bigger takings have the most influence, as Dr Loppin says, and over ninety per cent of the cinemas must bow to their demands.

Munich critic Hans Strobel says, "The powerful cinemas believe that every cinema that closes influences the market in their favour. They are only interested in their own business."

Television competes with all cinemas as it can show as many feature films as it wants. Box-office attractions can be seen some time later on the TV screen, whether they are Westerns, horror films or long-term sellers such as *Gone With the Wind*.

The film industry must therefore concentrate on subjects that are demanded

it is meant to find out what effects can be expected on the viewer, under what conditions and with what degree of probability.

This was what the Eisenhower Commission set up by President Johnson tried to do when investigating the harmful effects of television.

Klaus von Bismarck, the director general of Westdeutscher Rundfunk spoke of the results in a radio programme last July: "The commission found the depictions of violence on commercial television in America caused a change in attitude towards violence particularly in the young, the uncritical viewer, a socially unstable and people lacking contacts."

Discussions on TV violence are not new in this country. In the fifties the Church and television drew up a list of principles in which it was stated that crime, violence and vice existed and the depiction could be beneficial to a certain degree.

If it was added that the depiction of criminal acts was unsuitable for transmission when these end their result appeared ideal.

ZDF and ARD seem to be really serious about a comprehensive study. The two TV giants have both announced their initial steps. The ZDF is to examine the violent content of its own transmission during a two-week period, though the time span may not be long enough as could happen that few of the programmes in question are shown. The ARD is to examine the programmes it puts out in the early part of the evening.

To forestall critics, Professor Holzner has already announced that the television companies must become less reliant on American exports.

The ZDF is therefore seeking close cooperation with other TV companies in Europe, especially the BBC. Some years ago the BBC drew up a list of guidelines to take some of the violence out of their film scenes. Producers must avoid special effects that strengthen the impression of violence like the breaking of bones, skull and jaws.

Monika August-Nankirchen
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 November 1970)

yet not shown on television - pornography for example. But even here television is slowly beginning to catch up.

In Italy there are mutual agreements between television and the film industry and there is a limit to the number of feature films shown on television. All negotiations of this type in the Federal Republic have broken down in the past.

Hans Fischer, the head of Paramount in Hamburg, attacks the cinema owners more than anyone else: "Our cinemas are antiquated. Instead of making customers as comfortable as possible most cinemas do not have a cloakroom, smoking is not allowed and advertising is completely out of date."

Film-goers are often annoyed by the boring advertisements and trailers before the main feature. The former press spokesman of the Paramount organisation, Werner Rochau, complained eighteen months ago about the lantern-slide advertisements that represent a further source of income for the cinema owners and one that they do not want to give up.

"All this gets on film-goers' nerves for one hour," he said at the time, "and if the main feature is not good enough they just sit there wondering why they came in the first place."

There has been a change in cinema audiences. Most film-goers are members of the younger generation. The weekly visit to the corner cinema is no longer part of the leisure-time programme. People go to cinemas to see certain films. And when in the cinema, the film-goer expects the same comfort that he could find at home watching television.

Wolfgang Negele
(WELT am SONNTAG, 20 December 1970)

THEATRE

Decline in standards of modern plays

Kieler Nachrichten

Though it made headlines many times in the past year the German-speaking theatre is at present in a dilemma with regard to its overall structure, which has been the subject of much debate, and also as far as the choice of material is concerned.

Theatre history will look back on the period we are now in as the late phase of a fruitful era that produced names such as Sartre, Anouilh, T.S. Eliot, Fry, Tennessee Williams, Albee, Frisch, Dürrenmatt, Hochhuth, Dorst and Hacks.

Thus it is hardly surprising that there are a number of gloomy forecasts based on the dwindling audiences, arguments about structure, and new, but as yet immature ideas about a political theatre, ranging from action theatre and sidewalk theatre to outright agit-prop.

A glance back over the year, however, makes it painfully clear that the tension created by these debates has rarely proved fruitful and in for more cases has had a limiting effect on programmes and standards.

It is obviously a good thing that the mechanics of a cultural institution like the theatre are given an airing regularly and checked to see if they are in good running order.

"In the case of the theatre the role of the theatre manager, opportunities for cooperative ventures and new types of public relations should be reviewed regularly."

Also the part played by season ticket holders with regard to the theatre's finances and the programme of works performed must be given consideration.

When this happens nowadays it is not always carried out in a matter-of-fact manner, but it is often done as part of a system of political activity which may cast doubt on the role the theatre has played as a place for free expression, spiritual tolerance and intellectual expression.

This is a foothold that the theatre must keep at all costs, a position it must defend come what may. Men of the theatre should not let themselves be conned with glib statements such as "the predominant theatre is the mouthpiece of those who dominate."

There is scarcely any other place in our society in which such vehement criticism of the powers-that-be is exercised and in which so much sympathy for the new left is shown.

It is a welcome change that the cast is in some theatres now allowed to have a say in the programme of performances and in the artistic concerns of the theatre as is now the case in Bremen, Kassel and Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Another welcome change is the more democratic method of selection of theatre managers whereby all concerned are invited to meetings as in Darmstadt and Kassel.

However, the implementation of standardised rules of actor participation in the running of theatres all over the country is a doubtful practice. The situation and the climate on the various stages differ widely.

Fanatical directors, such as Fritz

Kortner was, would almost certainly come to grief if faced with cliché-ridden ideas of how much say the actors had in the production, directing and management side of the theatrical world.

On the other hand those theatres where all involved have a say in how the show is run would presumably only have much to show for this if they were like the Berliner Scheubühne am Halleschen Ufer, where the demands made on all staff render this system particularly favourable.

For this reason most actors today are only striving for greater representation and not full participation in the running of the theatre to which they are attached.

Behind the protests of many young actors that theatre managers are dictators and that the bourgeois theatre is being standardised there lurks a far more dangerous form of standardisation.

This is something against which it is essential to fight. Audiences want more than anything else good theatre. They do not really care what the backstage circumstances are as long as what they actually see on the stage is good.

It is self-evident that matters of political concern will be put up for discussion on the stage. But for political involvement to be raised for the people of the theatre as a *conditio sine qua non* is a practice that smacks of totalitarian States.

Now to the material actually produced on German stages during 1970! Where was the emphasis laid?

As far as the classics are concerned taboos on material ranging from Shakespeare to Goethe have been lifted. Kortner's last production was *Emilia Galotti* in the original Lessing text in Vienna.

However, other directors were not slow to alter texts as they saw fit, bringing them up to date or giving them new political slants, such as Heinz Hölzlmann's production of *Coriolanus* as socialist agit-prop in Munich, Rainer Werner Fassbinder's political version of the Lope de Vega play *Brennendes Dorf* (Burning village) in Bremen and Friedrich Dürrenmatt's *Die vier Hundert* in Düsseldorf.

Another example was Karl Wittlinger's attack on VIP's *Warum ist es an Rhein so schön?* (Why is it so beautiful on the Rhine?), which was produced in Freiburg.

More serious, aggressiveness at the indifference of the audience and the desire to shake people's nerves were the reasons behind these trends.

Similar motivations presumably lie behind plays that set out to lay bare unpalatable facts such as Joa Orton's *What the Butler Saw*, which was produced in Hamburg.

Is it a quick of fate or is it closely connected with the above-mentioned decadent phase of an era that the works of top-rated authors that appeared for the first time on German stages were generally their more mediocre or doubtful creations?

Ionesco's *Truism of Death* (Düsseldorf) and Böll's *Aussatz (Leprosy)* - performed in Aachen) could be taken as examples. Alternatively Peter Weiss' *Trotsky* and Mrozek's *Witzkaff* (performed in Düsseldorf and Zürich respectively) serve as examples.

Literature for the living stage seems to have become tired out. It seems to have been destroyed by all the talk about "the end of the bourgeois theatre".



A scene from Dürrenmatt's version of 'Titus Andronicus' staged at Düsseldorf

(Photo: Lore Bernbach)

New Spencer play flops in Bonn

It is said to have caused an unusual scandal in England but the German premiere in Bonn (as one of a series of studio productions) made it look like the dramatisation of a harmless novel.

The epic action of this demi-monde musical is as laborious and senseless as the title - *The Baked of the False Barnum and True Lore*.

Colin Spencer, the playwright responsible for this work, is well-known here for his much-played *Spitting Image*, a farce about a homosexual marriage that produces children.

In the play now premiered in Bonn he obviously wants to parody middle-class Puritanism with elements of Victorian melodrama and borrowings from Brecht and Genet.

But he is satisfied with the intention alone and has nothing of his own to say. He contents himself with the invention of the picturesque setting of a grotesque den of vice.

The attraction of the establishment specialising in perversions of all kinds is a he-men who loves an inmate who is a thorn in the flesh of the powerful barnum and her group.

When the supernum is sent to prison for misappropriating church funds to pay for the pleasures of a priest (excellently portrayed by Hans Faber), his Josie and her child are faced with misery and distress.

A duke patiently courts her and eventually wins her but orders the baby to be killed. Josie's greed turns into hate against the world. To revenge herself, she becomes a whore.

This change is announced with a lot of pathos that can easily be found in leading articles. But the social criticism and its untruthfulness are contrived. Olof Tschierschke could not decide to accept the apparent message of the play ironically.

All the other actors were brilliant and turned this completely unnecessary production into a play that was at least worth seeing for the acting alone.

Helma Sagebiel showed what style was required. At the end she appears as the personification of the hypocritical though practical Merry Old England and takes care of the happy ending that leaves everything as it was. It was marvellous the way she parodied her own role.

The best part of the production was the music of Clifton Parker that gave all the cast an opportunity of introducing and identifying themselves in song.

Werner Schulze-Reinpell
(DIE WELT, 18 December 1970)

Klaus Colberg
(Kieler Nachrichten, 23 December 1970)

Berlin leads the field in pre-school education but more must be done

The five- and six-year-olds attending pre-school classes in Berlin's Rudolf Hildebrand elementary school have just finished a game that was supervised by their teacher, Frau Haase.

They are now to be left to their own devices for the next lesson. The 25 children in the group who are to start school next year are allowed to pick whatever games and equipment they want from the shelves and cupboards.

The children are also allowed to form their own groups and friends or boys and girls with the same interests team up.

André says that playing at home is too boring as his brothers and sisters are so young. He is therefore glad to come to this school in the suburb of Tempelhof and build lines of logical blocks, as they are called.

He does not know or care what the term means but he does realise that there are squares, circles, triangles and rectangles. His little neighbour continues with the explanation, "And they are different sizes and different colours."

Nadja and Simone are using the logical blocks and everybody takes care to see that the various features of these blocks are noticed. One of the children always puts down a small, thick red circle while the other sets down two large thin blue triangles and so on.

This game can be varied and made more difficult as the children progress. It demands concentration and a talent for observation and teaches the young children something about mass, form and

colour. It is good preparation for mathematics that the children will have to learn later.

Two girls are playing dice at the next table. "Oh, I've got a five," one says and sticks five more wooden pins in her board. Though she does not know figures, she does know that her five is more than the two that Angelika threw.

Kathrin is painting a canvas, protecting her clothing with an apron that shows the signs of past experiments in colour. She is putting the finishing touches to a clown's face with smiling lips and sparkling eyes that contribute to the gaiety of the whole.

A wall in the room opposite is covered by a frieze that the children themselves have painted. Dismal Father Christmas alternates with houses and gardens and blobs of colour.

The children's teacher says that painting large areas is easier for young boys and girls and so this is the first thing they do in art.

Frau Haase is a kindergarten teacher with a Montessori diploma and considerable further training. She has headed this kindergarten — Berlin's first — since the beginning of 1949, shortly after it was set up.

She says that one of the most important things is not to overwork the children as many ambitious parents tend to do. But the question of how much work can be expected varies from child to child.

With 25 children in two pre-school classes that spend three lessons together a

day — there is a special arrangement for Saturdays — it is the kindergarten teachers who are overworked. They have no more than fifteen minutes break between the two groups.

But the headmistress tries to attend to personal weaknesses as much as possible, especially in the games played. When story-telling she tries to help children whose linguistic development has not been encouraged and whose intelligence therefore often underestimated.

It is important for boys and girls to have the same opportunities when actually starting school. Some children can deal with difficult problems though without being able to explain what they are doing.

The children's capacity for observation is helped by looking at pictures. When asked what they have seen on the picture, the children usually give vague answers at first.

As tests continue, the children know what must be done and look at everything on the pictures far more carefully and with greater concentration.

During the pre-school classes the children wear gym shoes even when physical training is not on the timetable. This helps the children to feel at ease and it is only now that many of the five and six-year-olds learn to put on and take off their own shoes by themselves and button up their coats without any help. All this is part of the kindergarten's programme.

The pre-school experiment which has now been going on for a year can already be described as successful. Less children have to speak a year in elementary school.

Just as the preliminary classes in the elementary schools followed on from the school kindergarten, the same process is going on with the pre-school groups and the former intermediate groups in children's day nurseries. They have the same function and work on the same principle and with the same material as preliminary classes. But of course there are differences because of the all-day system.

There are only fifteen children in the kindergarten's pre-school classes. Pre-school teaching is incorporated in the rest of the day's programme and is not so concentrated in time.

A coloured lad called Tommy skillfully serves lunch to the children sitting around a long table. He gallantly gives a helping to the young blonde sitting opposite and then serves himself, along with macaroni and tomato sauce.

All the children use their forks almost in the same way as adults would. Their movements are still a little stiff but what else can be expected at that age? The movements of their hands are still a little clumsy and they will have to learn all the refinements.

Ulli is on clearing-up duty. Carefully balancing a pile of porcelain plates against his body he walks awkwardly past a number of mothers waiting to pick up their offspring.

"If an adult holds his breath for fear of something happening, something will happen," says Frau Winkler, the head of the day nursery in Freiherr von Stein Strasse in the suburb of Schöneberg, commenting on this feat of balance. "If you have confidence in the child, everything will be all right." Ulli does not drop a thing.

Living with danger and accommodating oneself to it helps children to become more independent. In olden days knives, scissors, forks and fire were not considered suitable for small children.

But they are now used as part of the children's education. The young boys and

girls are able to light a candle for Christmas tree by themselves, they cut meat with a knife and cut out pictures.

The educational games have the same learning aims as in the preliminary class. The children must have their vocabulary expanded and their sentence construction helped by pictures. The simplest picture says, "The boy plays ball" while the more difficult says, "The boy and girl are throwing the red ball over the table in the living room."

Frau Winkler, another kindergarten teacher with a Montessori diploma, says, "Learning to listen is hard for five-year-olds. We practise it systematically and spend only a matter of seconds on it initially."

Even the walks that the children in the pre-school groups go on have their educational side. Alongside the duckpond they learn something about feeding animals in winter and learn to differentiate the various sorts of vegetable when shopping at the weekly market held in front of Schöneberg town hall.

The children's feeling for their environment is strengthened by a task they set every month. The children themselves are encouraged to make their own suggestions and, for December, came up with the subject of what to wear in the winter.

This began with homework — the children were asked to cut out fashion pictures from magazines or home art books and bring them along to school with remnant of materials that their mothers no longer required.

At the kindergarten the material was cut out and arranged in a frieze planned by all the children. They then discussed the finished product with their teacher.

It is not only knowledge that the children are being taught at kindergarten. "For children envy from their parents the whole day, the emotional aspect plays a great role," says Frau Winkler.

Some children are in particular need of care and attention. Personal treatment must be given as the time spent together longer and the groups smaller.

Some people criticise the concentration teaching found in preliminary classes while others view the diversified kindergarten programme as a drawback.

The most important problem at the moment is not the form of this sort of institution but their shortage. At present only about half of the 24,000 five and six-year-olds due to start school next year have the chance of pre-school education.

There are only 338 pre-school classes in 123 elementary schools with a total of 6,600 children and 396 pre-school groups at 494 day nurseries taking in 5,940 children.

These figures place Berlin at the head of all cities in the Federal Republic. In Hamburg, for example, with its six institutions of this type people are saying scornfully, "Next year we will have 800 per cent more — 481!"

Since September 1970 an independent planning team has been dealing with the education of three to six-year-olds. The six representatives of the education, children's welfare, finance and building authorities will then decide how to solve the problems raised by the introduction of pre-school education and come to terms with the structural changes in the education system.

A children's centre is being considered as a combination of school, kindergarten and like institutions. Existing buildings should be used and expanded.

Consideration is going into changing the standardised elementary school programme for the benefit of a plan of this type. "But," the team says, "we are still at the planning stage." Karin Preuss (DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 24 December 1970)

SCIENCE

In space for a whole year — Frankfurt leeches

The first astronaut to spend a whole year in conditions of weightlessness in the universe will probably be a leech from Frankfurt that will start its great space journey in 1972 if all goes well.

Dr Reiner von Lohr, the Frankfurt five-year-old, who practises it systematically and spend only a matter of seconds on it initially.

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a twelve-month orbit round the Earth to investigate problems of metabolism and daily rhythm.

The animals selected for the experiment are to be kept under observation for twelve months in a laboratory and then observed for another period of twelve months in orbit.

Before now it has scarcely been possible to keep creatures alive in space for such a long period. The main problem was supplying technical apparatus with energy.

Energy needs must be kept low if scientists want to carry out experiments over such a long period of time. The Frankfurt team had therefore to find a small animal that could store food for some time, one that did not excrete much waste, one that can be kept sterile and one that reaches a sufficiently advanced age to make comparative measurements in the laboratory possible.

While looking for this ideal creature Dr Lotz came across the leech. It seemed to be the most suitable candidate for the experiment.

The leech is a worm of between two and four inches in length that can live for more than 25 years. It lives in ponds and freshwater lakes, weighs about one gram and drinks anything up to ten millimetres of mammal's blood as nutrition.

Leeches can live for over a year on this quantity of blood. The problem of feeding creatures in long-term space experiments was solved by choosing a leech — no extra provision of energy is needed.

By measuring movements and oxygen consumption simultaneously, researchers were able to observe the leech's metabolism at a state of rest and also when the creature was in movement.

This gave certain indications on what metabolic changes there would be when working in conditions of weightlessness. There may also be further indications about what might happen to the human organism but it is too early to make conjectures. The results must first be seen.

Leeches consume human blood for example and conserve it in a sort of "refrigerator". A third rocket will be launched in the spring of 1971 from French Guiana. At the same time there will be physical experiments to be carried out by a research group in Freiburg.

Then the Frankfurt experiment will be ready for incorporation into a larger, probably American satellite programme. (Frankfurter Neue Presse, 19 October 1970)



Two leeches have been launched into space by scientists from this country headed by Professor Robert Lotz. Team members Klaus Dieter Klein, Dr Reimer von Lohr and Lothar Schrötter are here seen with the space travellers. (Photo: Harald Meisert)

Valdivia expedition to investigate raw materials in the sea

In 1898 and 1899 a ship named *Valdivia* sailed through the Atlantic and Indian Oceans to help the German Deep Sea Expedition find out something about the mysteries of the sea bed.

On 8 December 1970 a second *Valdivia* went into service, chartered by the Ministry of Science and Education which also gave it the name of the famous old research ship.

The new *Valdivia* is also a research ship but its purpose illustrates the changes in marine research in the past seventy years. At one time researchers sailed to find out about the depths and the topography under the sea's surface. Now more interest is shown in the riches of the sea and how they can be exploited.

The sea of the past was a means of transport and a supplier of fish. The sea of the future will also be an important source of raw materials.

Research into marine raw materials is the main purpose of the *MS Valdivia* that Science Minister Hans Leussink has chartered for four years with his signature.

The actual research programme will begin, after tests, on 17 February 1971. Attention is being concentrated on ore deposits and more particularly on the processes of ore formation in the central sections of the Red Sea.

Ore deposits have been found there at depths of below 6,000 feet. Apart from iron there are metals like manganese,

copper, zinc and lead. In some cases there are sufficient quantities to make commercial exploitation possible and economically viable.

The existing information on the state of raw materials in the Red Sea goes back to the expeditions of the American research ship *Albatross* and this country's *Meteor* that surveyed the sea bed here in 1965.

These investigations did not explain why these mineral deposits are to be found here. The decisive factor in their formation was probably the widespread recent volcanism. The *Proussang* firm has already started to investigate the economic importance of these raw materials.

The *Valdivia*'s investigations will be continued in other parts of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. The surface of the sea bed is first measured.

An accurate echo-sounder has to be used as the sea bed in the areas to be surveyed is very rough and often mountainous.

The acoustic signals of the echo-sounder must be sent at frequent intervals between three and fifteen thousand feet if the result is to be accurate.

Geophysical measurements will be made at the same time as the sea bed is sounded. Afterward sediments and water samples will be taken at selected points.

New equipment has been specially developed for the mineral deposits. This includes heavy samplers to dig out the large quantities of sea bed needed for experiments.

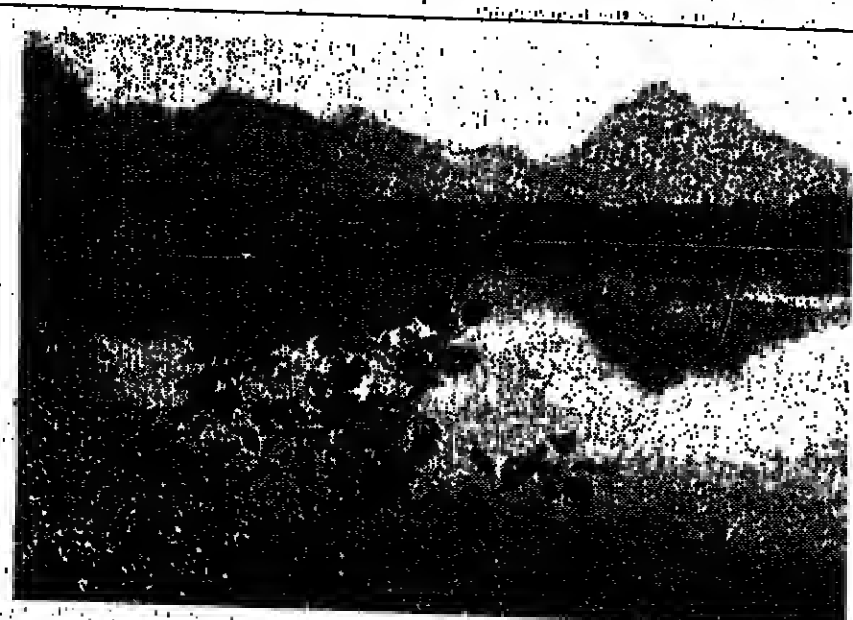
Laboratory work necessary will be carried out on board ship of course though industrial laboratories and scientific departments will carry out the main examination after the expedition is over and the *Valdivia* has returned.

The second research voyage of the *Valdivia* will be "Silt". This will examine the quantities of mineral alluvial deposits in the sediments of the shelf and of the upper continental slope north of the Zambesi estuary.

This research expedition will be made in the second half of 1971 and will be supervised by the Federal Institute for Surface Research.

The Ministry of Education and Science views this part of the marine research programme as an important contribution to the long-term provision of raw materials to the Federal Republic's industrial concerns. Petra Michael (VORWÄRTS, 24 December 1970)

m.s. *Valdivia* coming alongside in Hamburg (Photo: dpa)



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■ THE ECONOMY

Can economics and politics be treated separately?

BY ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER KARL SCHILLER



The world is becoming more highly industrialised all the time and the network of trade and other economic exchanges between countries is becoming more complicated. In such a world it is no longer possible to draw a sharp dividing line between what concerns the politician and what is the business of the economist.

To prove this point it is quite unnecessary to reach down the volumes of Karl Marx' writings — a glance around shows how true it is.

Foreign policies and international economic relationships are complementary and for much of the time they run parallel.

There are individual rules governing the two spheres. Often politics and economics are motivated by differing interests. Nevertheless the accord between them is unmistakable.

The Brandt-Scheel government's efforts to bring about a better relationship with the countries in east and south-east Europe have shown this close connection particularly clearly.

The Moscow Treaty of 12th August 1970 gave impetus to our discussions with the Soviet Union on mutual economic policies and made the talks easier. The Treaty has created a warmer and more friendly climate particularly with regard to economic cooperation.

A result of talks with the Soviet government I am convinced that politicians in Moscow see this political Treaty as a firm basis for intensifying economic

contacts between the two countries. I consider this opinion correct and I know that powerful spokesmen for industry in this country share my view.

But we must look at the other side of the coin. The most reasonable political agreement is of little use if it has no material content. This arrangement does not by any means stand alone but depends on economic relationships, the exchange of goods and of technological and scientific knowhow.

With such cooperation as the basis political relationships can also be thrown out. This is by no means a process that takes place of its own accord, as the example of the German Democratic Republic clearly shows. I would like to give a stern warning against the naive belief that mere economic contacts can replace political endeavours. Foreign trade is not a surrogate for foreign policies. But trade and cooperation could well provide fertile soil from which closer political ties may grow.

This is particularly true when mutual trade and cooperation is carried out within the framework of long-term agreements. Negotiations between government members about such treaties are always a place of politics in their own right even though they are confined to a very specialised shore.

I consider the five-year agreements that we have already concluded with some eastern European countries and which are still being negotiated with others to be a progressive step on the economic and political plane.

They involve more than the matter of simple trade and the conditions that will govern it. They provide the framework for a long-term programme of technological cooperation which will only reach fruit-

tion when the political relationship of the countries involved is, at the very least, tolerable.

The more political tensions are relaxed between countries, the more industrial and commercial leaders are prepared to step up their cooperative ventures. Increased economic cooperation may promote one kind of political understanding or another. Therefore I consider that precisely the new form that our economic agreements with East Bloc countries has taken will underline the mutual dependence of economics and politics.

It is quite likely that political bones of contention and differences of opinion will not as a result lose any of their significance. But trade agreements show in principle preparedness to tackle such problems and solve them in a cordial manner.

Phase displacements between economic and political understanding are unavoidable. But the two activities will no longer be able to run divergent courses.

This is the political and meta-economic reason why I welcome the intensification of our trade and economic relationships with East Bloc States that was achieved in 1970.

Politically and economically speaking we should regard these closer relationships soberly and realistically as being done in East Bloc capitals.

In the economic sphere there are other problems corresponding to the political obstacles to complete understanding which themselves cannot be solved overnight.

Economically and politically there will be a remainder which stays unresolved. But in both spheres the Social Democrat and Free Democrat government in Bonn has risked making a new start.

Political and economic experts have drawn a new map of the world, on which the bastions of the Cold War are no longer to be seen.

I feel certain that this new concept is necessary since it is beneficial to continued peace in Europe. Foreign policies and economic policies are heading in the same direction and going hand in hand.

(Wirtschaftswoche/BSR VOLKSWIT, 23 December 1970)

A free market economy gives the best of both worlds

communist East Bloc and the "liberal market economy" of past eras.

The free market economy is not a philosophy of life. It is a formalised economic procedure with sliding scales of prices, which gives consumers and manufacturers pointers to the way ahead. But this system does not mean that economic affairs can be left to their own devices. What is required is far more a carefully guided system of economic regulations, guided indeed by society.

This socially guided free market economy and the idea of private property are inseparable. This combination assures as much economic success as is possible and creates a network of markets linked by thousands of millions of threads providing the best possible overall economic efficiency.

When this system has got underway it proves the best basis for technological progress and it strengthens the endeavours of the industrialist to adjust his organisation to changed market conditions.

A surprising number of people in the West are agreed that if no influence is exercised on a free market economy the results would be negative.

The objection raised by critics on the extreme left that the system leads to an intolerable accumulation of economic might, grants privileges to a minority, aggravates the concentration of wealth in the hands of the few and creates a system

of incomes that have nothing to do with productivity applies to the liberal market economy system but not to the socially guided free market economy system if this is operated correctly.

The socially guided free market economy requires the State at the helm if it is to be steered into the right channels. Measures to keep the system in order such as legislation to ensure competitiveness and break monopolies and courses of action affecting the industrial sector of the economy are an essential component part of this system.

Therefore interference by the State is not always a sin against the spirit of the free market economy. But obviously a government can meddle excessively. How can the dividing line be drawn between guidance to the free market economy and the State-controlled system?

Any measure that bolsters the productive powers of the free market economy is acceptable. Economic strictures such as price freeze, rent freezes and meddling in collective agreements on wages should be rejected.

If the black book listing the sins of the present government is viewed from this aspect no excesses can be found. Professor Schiller has written: "For us there is no way that could lead us from the free market economy."

Attacks on this system come from the outlying districts of the political scene. The motives behind them are as numerous

Long-term trade agreement signed in Prague

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The new long-term agreement on trade and economic and technological cooperation between the Federal Republic and Czechoslovakia was signed on 1 December 1970.

This agreement was signed by Ambassador Hermea from the Federal Republic Foreign Office and the Department Head of the Czech Foreign Trade Ministry, Dr Killian, at Bratislava Castle in Prague.

Herr Hermea spoke of the trade treaty as the most important agreement between these two countries since the War.

He said that the treaty was a good indication that both governments brought their efforts to restore a neighbourliness near to a successful conclusion.

The Ambassador hoped that the treaty for trade and economic and technological cooperation would be more far-reaching than these spheres and would mark the beginning of improvements in all other relations between the Federal Republic and Czechoslovakia.

This agreement provides for the first time the basis for trade agreements stretching over a longer period than the erstwhile twelve months.

Dr Killian pointed out that from the point of view of volume of trade the Federal Republic was the most promising trading partner with Czechoslovakia: the western world.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 December 1970)

■ INDUSTRY

Crisis in electronics industry

A mere twelve months ago all companies in the Federal Republic radio and television industry were pressing the manufacturers of component parts to get their deliveries in on time according to their contracts.

"They were hoping to sell more than one million colour television sets in the year (actual sales were something more like 600,000 to 620,000 receivers — ed.) Now the picture has changed completely and the selfsame manufacturers have cut back their orders for component parts so severely that it seems they are resigned to producing at the most 100,000 colour television receivers in 1971."

(The original production and sales target was set at about 1.5 million sets — ed.)

This pessimistic outlook for the manufacturers of radio and television component parts was expressed by a spokesman for Valvo Limited of Homburg. It looks like being a difficult year for the producers of valves, transistors and the like, in his opinion.

Approximately one third of the fourteen thousand employees in this branch of industry are likely to be affected by the cut-back in production in the course of the next few weeks.

ITT-Intemetall Limited of Freiburg and the Semi-conductor production sector of AEG-Telefunken, based in Heilbronn, are putting several of their employees on short-time working.

Valvo has given many of its female staff "extended Christmas holidays" of, in some cases, as much as two months! The Hamburg-based firm is as yet unable to say whether any of its staff will have to go on short-time work.

Despite these developments forecasts have been made of excellent opportunities for expansion in the semi-conductor and radio and television component parts industries.

Following an average annual expansion of one quarter in the industry throughout the year, component parts to the value of 750 million Marks should be sold.

The continued falling off of sales arise from the excessively hasty expansion of production capacity in the industry throughout the world. In the Federal Republic alone production capacity is thought to have been increased by about four-fifths in the course of a year.

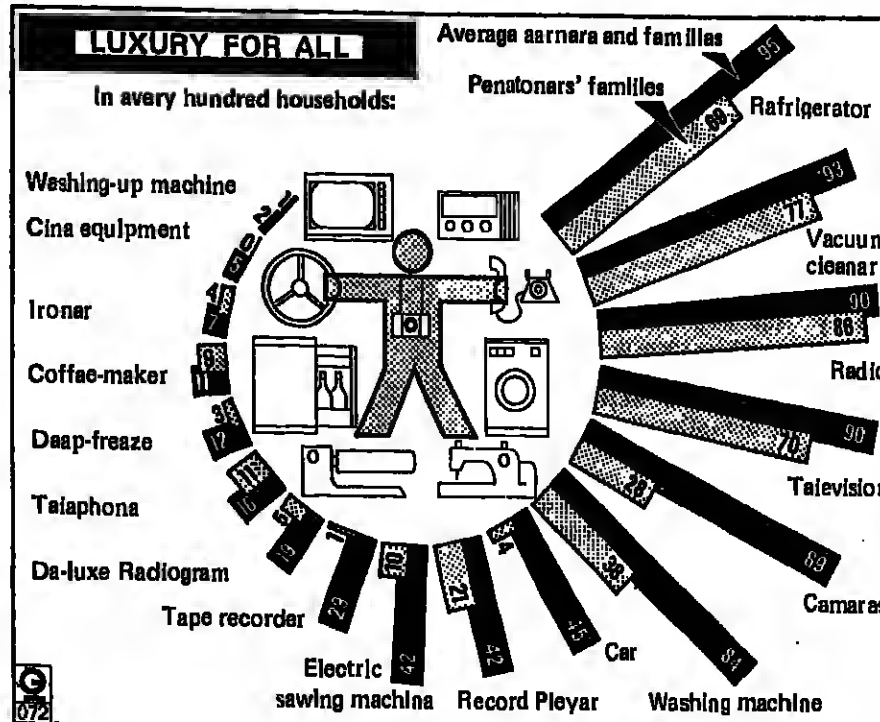
Although in the first quarter of 1970 deliveries dates were up to three or even six months now deliveries can be made immediately.

Chemicals industry braves difficulties

Despite "a number of difficulties" the chemicals industry expects an increase in turnover of approximately seven per cent which will push it up to the fifty-thousand-million-Mark level. This means however that chemicals will lag behind industry as a whole since the industry has not been able to push up prices to cover increased costs in the face of stiff international competition.

While the official producer price index of chemical products for the first ten months of last year increased by only one per cent the price index for industry as a whole shot up by more than six per cent.

In contrast to previous years foreign trading in chemicals slackened. In 1970 it is thought that exports increased by approximately 7.4 per cent to approximately 18.5 thousand million Marks.



Prices have dropped in the course of twelve months by one half or even more.

Twelve years ago a silicon transistor cost thirty Marks. Today a far better component part can be had for one hundredth of this price.

In the United States particularly the semi-conductor and radio and television component part industry was, during the sixties, one of the most expansive branches of industry, matched only by the data-processing industry.

Computerisation, space projects and industrial electronics all offered outlets for the manufacturers of electronic component parts.

According to the Central Committee for the Electronics Industry (ZVEI) in Frankfurt, "New technological advances were made in rapid succession leading to greater reliability, miniaturisation and price reductions".

By the end of 1969 a production level had been reached in the United States that far exceeded the requirements for 1970. The American giants in this field, such as Texas Instruments, Motorola and Fairchild wasted no time in plunging into the European market.

On the European market Phillips are top dogs with a thirty-per-cent share. Texas Instruments came next with eighteen-per-cent, Motorola nine-per-cent, SGS eight-per-cent, ITT nine and Siemens seven-per-cent.

With the Americans being able to guarantee immediate delivery the users of these component parts at first used up the stocks they had amassed so that they would not have to cut production when delivery dates were too long.

Last autumn demand for component parts from companies here declined sharply and the manufacturers of semi-conductors in the Federal Republic

suddenly saw the bottom drop out of their market.

The main markets for these parts in this country are the radio and television and record-player and tape recorder industries which account for one third of all parts produced. The rest are required by the electronics and computer industries and manufacturers of measuring instruments, regulators and automatic switches.

It is not only the manufacturers of colour televisions that are cutting their orders, now, but the radio producers are also requiring less from the component-part manufacturers in this country. Sales of television sets and radios are slack and only hi-fi equipment is selling well at the moment. There is a fear that radio and television manufacturers will have to put their workers on short time before long.

Radio and television manufacturers deny that their market is slack, but they do admit that business is not as brisk as it was a year ago.

Hermann Brunner-Schwer of Sabn hit the nail on the head when he said that a number of factories would have to adjust to "problem spheres" such as colour TV and transistor radios. The future situation is difficult to forecast especially if the atmosphere of recession continues. At any rate the industry is proceeding cautiously and is prepared to take emergency action such as making workers redundant or putting them on short time whenever necessary. But it would be wrong to put out a red alert yet.

The semi-conductor manufacturers are expecting the value of their market to drop by twelve to fifteen-per-cent in the next year.

In the Federal Republic Siemens, Valvo, Texas Instruments, Intemetall and AEG-Telefunken will control four-fifths of the semi-conductor manufacturing industry.

In the United Statesylvania are having to give up manufacturing semi-conductors and in this country too it seems that the smaller firms are going to have a tough time remaining competitive. Despite successful attempts at rationalisation on the production lines costs are rising and the profit margin is being severely cut.

New markets are being sought for new and more costly semi-conductors. Experts are pointing out the possibilities for the use of electronic equipment in cars. Household electronics is another field that should help to increase the market for such component parts.

Intemetall in Freiburg is the only firm in the ITT group that has made great advances in developing electronic timing devices for use in watches. It is thought that in two to three years time electronic watches could be marketed costing no more than 250 Marks in the shops. In this field firms in this country are working in close cooperation with the Swiss.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 23 December 1970)

Airconditioning in the home soon a commonplace

Electrical gadgets are taking over household step by step. Apart from refrigerators, washing machines and electric cookers kitchens now include washing-up machines, deep freezers and electric or electronic grills. The next stage in modernising households in this country is full air-conditioning.

According to a consumer advisory centre dealing with electrical equipment for household use washing-up machines will become an essential part of the household in the seventies. Already these machines are being manufactured and bought on a scale that puts them on a par with washing machines in the early sixties.

In the first six months of 1970 230,300 washing-up machines were manufactured. This was 33 per cent more than in the same period of 1969. Imports (up by 53 per cent) rose more sharply than exports (twenty per cent), and in the first half of 1970 129,500 washing-up machines came on the market. This was 49 per cent up on the January-June figures for 1969.

At the moment about four out of every hundred own a washing-up machine compared with the forty per cent that own a washing machine.

Deep freezers are coming into their own and in ordinary households deep freeze machines in the shape of a refrigerator rather than an ice-box.

In the first six months of 1970 production of deep freezers increased by 88 per cent on the same period of 1969, and amounted to 101,700 units. Total production of deep freeze equipment, both ice-boxes and refrigerator-shaped equipment, increased by three per cent to 330,500 units.

By the end of 1970 one household in five in the Federal Republic was thought to own a deep freezer but only one in five of these was cupboard-shaped as opposed to the ice-box.

Extraordinary increases in output and sales of grills have been noted. In the first six months of 1970 production rose to 284,100 units. In the first half of 1969 only 128,000 were produced so the increase amounted to 122 per cent.

Imports increased more sharply than exports once again and between January and June 1970 286,300 units were imported, an increase of 150 per cent on the comparable period of 1969. At the moment about one household in ten in this country owns a grill.

All-electric, airconditioned houses are being built at the moment in many parts of the Federal Republic and it is expected that airconditioning will become very extensive, according to Professor H. Schaefer, the director of the institute for power and energy at the Munich Technical University.

According to the Professor airconditioning in the Federal Republic is by no means limited to offices and other places of work.

But an increasing number of industrial manufacturing processes require unchanging atmospheric conditions. Hospitals need airconditioning for hygienic reasons and hotels have introduced this to reduce noise.

The offices of professional people such as doctors and lawyers are being increasingly airconditioned.

Air travel cannot dispense with airconditioning and railway carriages in this country now being built will have airconditioning units to cut down noise and draughts.

Consequently private houses are now having airconditioning installed. Today airconditioning still has a status-symbol value, tomorrow it will be a reality for a great many people and soon it will become a fact of everyday life for the vast majority.

(Handelsblatt, 28 December 1970)

■ TECHNOLOGY

Aerospace leaders manoeuvre
for next government grant

In the clean room at Erno in Bremen, which is hardly a housewife's dream to look at, common or garden dirt is less of a problem than fine dust.

This is the workshop in which, in precisely defined conditions that include absolute freedom from dust, work is carried out on small control mechanisms for space satellites.

Although they may only develop a few pounds of thrust these tiny units are vital to ensure that the satellite stays on course once it has left the Earth's atmosphere.

The filter walls that help to keep the dust out cost several hundred thousand Marks alone and the engineers and technicians who work here have to be absolute paragons of cleanliness, too, which involves more than frequent visits to the washbasin.

Showers, masks and protective clothing all play their part in protecting not the men from the machinery but the machine from the man. Protective clothing is washed in distilled water with the aid of specially developed dust-free detergent.

These precautions may appear ludicrous but they are characteristic of the logic way in which the aerospace industry is trying to plan and exercise exact control over the workshop and laboratory conditions on which the success of a technological project might depend.

Systems integration is the keynote of the industry nowadays, a seemingly abstract concept denoting a philosophy and method of working that is most apparent in automated production processes.

Every detail of the production process is predetermined, each movement of the hand along the assembly line is laid down in advance. Disturbances are either automatically dealt with or automatically indicated.

The thought that goes into ensuring that the process functions is an example of systems integration. The principle can only be defined in general terms but it is universally applicable.

It is as useful in organising gigantic development projects as it is in developing integrated traffic systems. "We systems analysts," the aero engineers say,

"need not only make aircraft. We can do virtually anything." And there are problems enough for them to tackle.

VFW-Fokker and Erno are already planning for the time when astronauts will not be discarding their craft after every assignment.

Provided money is forthcoming for the protracted development work on a space shuttle this could be by the turn of the century.

Appropriate plans and initial contracts are under way but whether or not they will be brought to a conclusion depends less on the technicians' know-how than on Washington, Bonn and London, all of whom will have to pay dearly for the privilege.

The time it will take for the development work to be carried out is, when all is said and done, ample for people in various places to wonder whether the expense is really worth while.

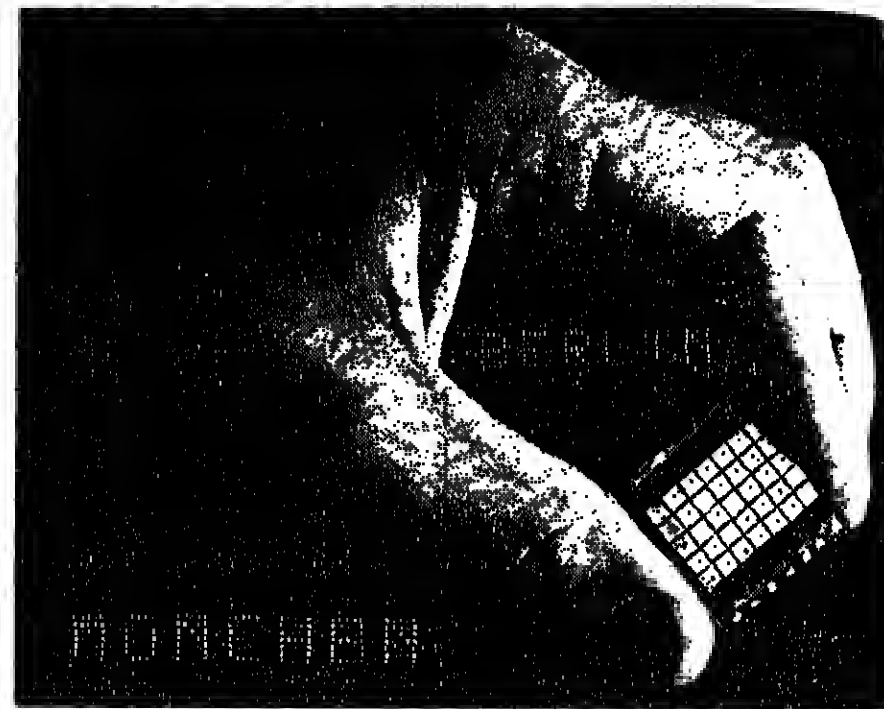
Science, technology, politics and hard cash form an unresolvable cluster in the aerospace industry, but politics unquestionably has the last say both as the financier of research and development work and the purchaser of military devices in particular.

Roughly eighty per cent of the industry's budget comes from public funds and political decisions have a decisive effect even on the fate of most civil developments.

This is why there is a world of difference between what the aircraft industry can do and what systems analysts could do. The technologists' integrated systems form part of a non-integrated economic and political system.

The financial situation of the aircraft industry in this country and Europe as a whole is far too poor for them to be able to engage in large-scale development programmes off their own bat.

The aerospace industry is dependant on government assistance, and those who are aware of the unfulfilled desire of other sectors of the economy for public funds will never cease to wonder how it is that the aerospace industry all over the world can rely on prompt supplies of hard cash from the government in question.



Flat television sets are a possibility in the future thanks to research carried out by Siemens research laboratories using liquid crystals (Photo: Siemens)

Liquid crystals
will make flat TV
sets possible

There is never a motor manufacturer who could be not unduly worried when shortly before the projected commencement of series production a few hundred million Marks must be raised, as was recently the case with the VFW-Fokker short-haul commercial jet.

No banking consortium could be expected or exact to be bailed out by a last-minute credit guarantee from Bonn.

Now the development of aircraft and space technology does bring with it a number of benefits that do not accrue from the manufacture of, say, washing machines. It provides national prestige and know-how in technological disciplines with a future.

Yet doubts will remain as to whether the many hundreds of millions of Marks would not be better spent on environmental protection, infrastructure and education.

This is probably one reason why the industry is planning far ahead in order to beat a wide path into the future. Large-scale plans make life easier to live at times when there is no alternative to a hand-to-mouth existence.

Large-scale plans are also more likely to coax substantial sums of money out of the powers that be. For this reason alone planning is of vital importance for the aerospace industry. *Hans H. Schnocks*

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 19 December 1970)

The computer that
communicates by
means of tastes

certain crystals only one level remains. The light is polarised.

This is not all. If the light is already polarised it emerges from the crystal at another angle that depends on the original level of oscillation. There are two possible angles. They depend on the shape of the prismatically ground crystal.

So provided the polarisation of the incoming light wave can be electrically influenced the direction in which the light is travelling can also be varied by means of the crystal.

This is indeed possible. A number of liquids when subjected to electrical tension deflect the oscillation level of a passing light wave. This phenomenon is called the Kerr effect by physicists.

The molecules of liquid, beamed in one direction by virtue of the electrical current leave only one way open for the light, the oscillation level of which has to adapt accordingly.

If a Kerr cell and a prismatic crystal are combined to form a deflection unit the light is deflected in one direction for the

duration of a no signal (negative) and in another during a positive impulse.

With the aid of sixteen such units physicists can already beam light at a total of 65,000 different points, switching direction in less than a millionth of a second.

A number of deflection units arranged in series will, of course, use up a fair amount of the light. Not until lasers were discovered a decade ago was it possible to put this deflection principle into practice.

Laser beams are so intensive and so sharply bundled that the loss is hardly noticed.

The conceivable applications of electrically controlled ray deflection are virtually legion, ranging from information storage in a particularly small space (information that can be called on and printed out at lightning speed) to large-size projection of television pictures.

The laser can not only deflect signals from a programmed computer; it can also deal with the electrical impulses emitted by a cathode ray tube.

With the aid of several lasers of different colours it should one day be possible to project colour TV pictures of extreme brightness and brilliance on to a large screen.

Michael Globig
(DIE WELT, 18 December 1970)

Guess who's got
more 747s
than any other
airline?

Right the first time. Pan Am.

Pan Am 747s are now flying across the Atlantic to the U.S.A. From the U.S.A. to the Caribbean. And to the Middle Pacific, the South Pacific and the Orient.

Wherever you go on our 747, it won't add a penny to your fare.

All you have to do is call a Pan Am Travel Agent. Or call Pan Am. And say you want the plane with two wide aisles and wide-

screen movies*. And the separate sections for smokers and nonsmokers. And the extra blue-and-gold stewardesses. And the In-Flight Service Director who's in charge of everything.

In other words, just ask for the plane that has it all.

*Available at nominal cost.

World's most experienced airline.

TOURISM

Winter sports in the Black Forest

CHRISTOPH WELT
Darmstadt

A good two hundred years ago, in 1763 to be precise, Franz Anton Ketterer invented the Schwarzwald (Black Forest) clock at his home in the little village of Schönbühl. This was not a cuckoo clock but one of those chronometers with a flat hand painted face that are still produced to this day.

Later when an animal noise was built into the Schwarzwald clock for the first time it was not the famous cry of the cuckoo but a simple crow of a cock.

This is history and today by far the greater part of the cuckoo clock production in the Black Forest goes to places as far flung as America, South Africa and Australia.

Thus a part of the Black Forest goes all over the world and in return the world comes to the Black Forest. Not only the next door neighbours in France and Switzerland, but also the Dutch and the British have, to use the words of the burgomaster of Titisee, re-discovered the Black Forest. Of the 300,000 people who stayed at least one night in the Black Forest no fewer than 50,000 were from abroad.

Considering that the Anglo-Saxons place more faith in the healing power of the hypodermic than the mystic of curative waters from the bosom of the earth the guests from Britain might be expected to leave the Black Forest's spa waters and cure centres to German visitors especially in winter.

These centres are, however, anything but inactive oases during the season when the ground is covered with a blanket of snow. Bad Krozingen, Bad Rippoldsau, Bad Liebenzell and Herrenalb offer cheap winter package spa treatments. This includes accommodation, medical attention, various medical and balneological services and sporting activities. The organisers at these various treatment centres will give further information if required.

As a novelty for this winter Baden-Baden is offering the "anti-stress Kur" although the word "Kur" should not be studied too closely. It involves eight days of unwinding for managerial types who will also be given medical examinations and baths, massages and spa water. In

addition there will be a modicum of social events but all without the strict regimentation of a real spa treatment.

The head of the treatment centre in Freudenstadt, which is noted for its bracing air, also maintains that his therapy is not so stringent and controlled as in spa centres. At this centre an eight-million-Mark building project is under way. When completed this will include an indoor swimming pool with water specially treated with extract of pine and fir needles. There will also be medicinal baths, massages, inhalation treatment, Kneipp courses, sauna baths and a gymnasium.

Wildbad offers gymnastic training for its winter guests as well and in addition there are the well known thermal baths and the new amenity, curling. But the greatest sensation of the winter season at Wildbad is still the open air thermal baths.

Resorts such as St Blasien and the neighbouring Bann, Häusern and Mennschwand offer special treatment passes and tickets. These are valid in all four resorts and allow the holders special prices for entry to many of the events organised there such as concerts and use of ski lifts and the heated swimming pool in St Blasien.

Triberg, Schonach and Schönwald have introduced a communal ticket labelled "Winterkur und Wintersport". Among other things this gives a twenty per cent reduction on the Schönwald ski lifts.

Friedenweiler is another Kneipp centre with facilities for gymnastic exercises for patients and visitors. Skiers are well catered for all over the Black Forest with an elaborate beginning in the neighbourhood of Friburg in the township of Hofgrund. This township recently applied to the Federal state government in Stuttgart for permission to change its name to Schauinsland.

Todtnau - proud of its ski slopes

It already has five ski lifts and two new ones are being built. One of them is 900 metres long and climbs 250 metres.

Todtnau at the foot of the Feldberg is proud of its steep ski slopes and in 1968 for the first time the German Alpine ski championships were held outside the actual Alps in Todtnau.

Extensions have also been made to the skiing facilities in Titisee which is more famous for curling, ice-skating, horse sleighs and hiking.

Another sporting scene is to be found in the village of Feldberg-Bärenthal, centred around the highest peak in this mountain range. The burgomaster says proudly that the hotels here are situated in the middle of the skiing areas which means that long walks are unnecessary and the lifts go whirling past the hotel doors. Special tickets are issued for skiers

who are likely to use the lifts several times, offering them reduced prices. These tickets are valid in Sand, Hundseck, Unterstamm, Ochsenstall, Selbelseckle, Ruhestein and Vogelskopf.

A season ticket has been introduced for two lifts in Unterstamm, a new one on Hochkopf and one on Hundseck. This costs 150 Marks and allows skiers to make as many journeys as they wish throughout the whole winter season. This is, of course, very useful for sports fans from nearby villages and towns, but holidaymakers who are there for just a short time would do better to buy just ordinary tickets.

A new ski lift has been built near the Kurhaus in Sand on the Mehlikskopf and a second has been built on the other side of this hill in the direction of Hundseck. A new ski run has been cleared on Hoch-

kopf near Unterstamm and this also has a new ski lift, making a total of four.

The largest ski school in the northern part of the Black Forest is situated there employing eight instructors.

On the Vogelskopf near Ruhestein a lift has been built during the summer and like the other new skiing runs this is equipped with flood lights so that slopes can be used to the full.

In the little settlement of Wiehen there is not only a centre for convalescents to take treatment after their time at one of the Kur centres such as Badenweiler but there are plans for new ski lifts for hardened winter sportsmen as well, as soon as the old ski lifts have paid for themselves, according to the burgomaster.

These other two lifts have only been in operation for two winters but they have made this district including the nearby Wiehener Beck one of the newest and most successful Black Forest winter sports resorts.

Similarly in Schluchsee with its mini-ski lifts. People who have visited this area for fresh air cures and healing waters can use these ski lifts without charge.

This winter a ski school is being opened at Schluchsee and its source of training will include the newly introduced shorter ski.

Special introductory prices apply at this centre. A week's course of two hours each day costs only five Marks!

For those who want to get away from it all spa treatments and holidays are available Hörschenschwand. Treatment and holidays are available here for everyone however much they can afford.

Facilities range from the sanatorium which is run by doctors on model lines, to simple pension accommodation.

Bernau is building two new ski lifts in addition to a third that has been in operation for some time and in this region there are a total of six which means that the area will be able to cater for many skiers throughout this winter.

It is not only Todtnau that has alpine ambitions. Certainly the scenery, old traditions and the people who live in this area will make sure that the Black Forest skiing centre don't go too far. Alpine ambitions or not they must remain in typical Schwarzwald style.

The clocks of Schönwald, Hintertzen, Todtnauberg and Bernau are far different from those of Kitzbühel, St Moritz and Megeve.

Peter Gerisch
(CHRIST UND WELT, 11 January 1971)



The highest peak in the Black Forest - Feldberg

(Photo: Archiv)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dear Mr President

A charming letter from the President of the United States, President Richard M. Nixon, addressed to the Bundespresseamt in Bonn. The letter was dated 19 January 1971 and was addressed to the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, President Heinrich Lübke.

The letter to Adenauer was over to the postal services. It was decided not to publish the letter from America to the real president, Dr. Gustav Heinemann, and Adenauer, of course, been dead for four years.

Since the envelope obviously contains no important political messages, it finally handed over to the Konrad Adenauer House in Rhöndorf, where Chancellor lived.

The Adenauer family were somewhat nonplussed by what the Germans of her youngest heaving the President Adenauer.

"Dear Mr President Adenauer, I live in Texas and am eight years old. I have a pen-friend in your country. Would you please send me a letter? Thanking you very much."

(Münchener Merkur, 24 October 1970)

Sex for men

Following the success of the "Sex Kittens" advertisement in mid-December, Munich in mid-December, which attracted a flood of applications, the who started the scheme for training and women to use their natural

appeal plans to extend her consultancy lessons in sexual development. Elga Machaty, the attractive woman who started the scheme, the director of the "Sex Kittens" received a spate of enquiries from men asking her if she could teach them how to be sexy as well. The stronger also wanted to know how to use their appeal to great advantage in their personal and at parties.

So now Elga Machaty is collecting a dossier from her own experience on what makes a man sexy.

"I am trying to find out what attracted me to the various men whom I have flirted and why I have hit it off with other men," sex expert Elga said.

One suggestion for Elga Machaty's pupils she should allow her male women pupils to get together and experiment.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 19 December 1970)

Willed wine

The city fathers of Friedrichshafen Lake Constance recently had to solve an unusual problem that was in a bequeathed to them.

Shortly before, a citizen of Friedrichshafen had died and left his entire estate to the city. But there were strings attached to the bequest.

The dead man who in his lifetime had been noted for his love of wine stated in his last will and testament that his estate should be liquidated - that is, converted into red wine.

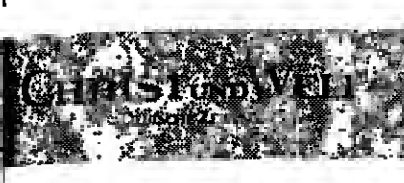
In future on the anniversary of the death of this rich citizen there should be a celebration at which every citizen of Friedrichshafen over 65 will be presented with two free bottles of good red wine until the whole estate has been bought away.

The city fathers must solve the problem of how the will is to be shared out among the senior citizens of the Lake Constance town.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 28 December 1970)

SPORT

Top flight sport training can harm children



In the past sporting tots have always been touching, idyllic and favourite photographic motifs. There is always the first race in his career, of two tennis of miniature footballers, of a pair of water of the little princess of the ice rink.

It is usually the child's own energy that shakes parents' hearts beat fast and seriously. Is adduced by Dad and an example of what a wow he himself used to be and allows Mum to fall prey to the illusions of her youngest heaving the makings of a champion.

But the days when children's sport was an unregimented affair now seem to be over and done with. The combined obsession with prestige of parents and the rigorous of training for competitive sport as what is generally regarded as a matter of course.

Harmless sayings such as "It's an early bird that gets the worm" and "Once learned is never forgotten" have long become total demands.

Particularly in the semi-show business disciplines - gymnastics and ice-skating - but also in swimming six- to eight-year-olds already carry out intensive training schedules.

Trainer Stein's Emmendinger-Teninger youngsters spend more time on sport (eighteen hours a week) than fully-grown medium- and long-distance runners such as Franz-Josef Kemper or Harald Nurboth, and it is no secret that young Eastern Bloc and Japanese gymnasts undergo an even more rigorous routine.

There is a world of difference between children who subject themselves to a training schedule with a specific aim in mind and adults who do so. A six-year-old child does not make the decision of his own free will.

It little matters whether the driving force is the proverbial ice-skating mother who intends by hook or by crook to drill championship standards into her little girl or government talent scouts sent out to comb schools and kindergartens.

The oft-quoted argument, not to say excuse, that children's training is merely a kind of early talent scouting is just not true. The work load is far too heavy and quite evidently orientated towards achievement rather than the child.

What is more, a child's real talent cannot be determined at this age. A limited selection can be made among a group of four- to eight-year-olds but sports educationalists are agreed that a definite statement to the effect that a child shows promise in one discipline rather than the other is impossible until the onset of puberty.

A clear judgement as to a person's

powers of coordination and physiological prerequisites such as leverage and specific weight cannot be made until a child is fully grown.

No one who has ever heard children's coaches praying to high heaven that their proteges grow no taller (ice-skating and gymnastics) will have failed to realise at a glance that the whole business is completely pointless.

Many so-called promising youngsters suddenly turn out to be hopeless while others previously classified as untalented suddenly develop unsuspected ability.

What is more, in many disciplines the situation is not dissimilar to that in music. Little Wilfried or little Karin have to become gymnasts, skate, play the piano or sing because father, mother or a trainer have so decided.

"You have talent so that's that! When all is said and done your uncle was a famous pianist."

Not to mention disgraceful instances of parental barbarity when, as not infrequently happens, the skating mother clouts her child because of some mistake or other, revealingly saying "We might as well have poured the money down the drain." This is the sort of thing parents should be taken to court for.

It is another matter altogether that this abuse of the child can and as a rule must lead to physical misdevelopment and that this is sanctioned by public opinion. The cause is the general glorification of sporting success and the public's desire for promising youngsters and medals galore.

The image presented by the mass communications media is largely responsible for children's sport in certain allegedly aesthetic disciplines being taken to extremes.

Dangers of exposure to strain underestimated

The physical strain to which children can be exposed is, of course, far greater than is generally supposed and there is no real danger of exhaustion. Children rebel long before this point has been reached.

On the other hand the recently published results of a survey conducted in Czechoslovakia seem to prove that gymnastics training by little girls can lead to irreparable physical damage in the genital region - a stunted uterus, for instance.

In view of the physical strain three hours a day training for a twelve-year-old girl not five feet tall such as Uta Schorn of Leverkusen would not appear to be entirely unproblematic.

"I have all the equipment in the garden", says father Artur Schorn. "In winter I occasionally assemble some of it in the living-room so that the child can get on with her training undisturbed."

With the possibility of physical harm, however, would appear to be less worrying than the almost inevitable psychic damage. For one the child's specific



Youngsters have fun on the ski slopes - but is it good for them?

(Photo: Walter Storto)

possible for children's sport in certain allegedly aesthetic disciplines being taken to extremes.

No matter how tough the training schedule of a girl gymnast, ice-skater or swimmer may be no one will ever criticise children's training in such delightful disciplines.

The criticism is levelled at allegedly inhuman medium-distance training for girls, an activity that often enough does not take up a tenth of time, not to mention the nervous strain, of training for the "aesthetic" disciplines.

Let no mistake be made, the sports child does not engage in sport in the way it would like to but strictly as its parents or teachers tell it to. It is press-ganged into a training schedule that takes up anything up to fifty per cent of its leisure time.

disciplina in question (above all in the imagination) the child's expectations of success are so high that even partial success is no longer felt to have been worthwhile.

Young people of this kind, disappointed by sport, are often frustrated in other walks of life too. They are certainly an upsetting example of misdirected sporting enthusiasm.

One of the writers once encountered at first hand as a games mistress the many psychic complications that result from the living off of sporting starts, in this case gymnasts, from the class as a whole.

The huc and cry about the elite group, admired and apoll by parents, teachers, trainers and local government officials and often dolled up in the latest sporting fashions and visualising themselves as future national champions, could hardly fail to make the rest of the class envious.

The rejection and alienation of the elite by and from the rest of the class is accelerated by the delight the elite take in showing off their sporting talent and superiority over the others of the slightest opportunity.

Isolation of the elite group would appear to be the inevitable consequence. There is a particularly tragic note about cases in which a child is demoted from the elite group because it is not so talented after all. It is both disappointed and jeered at by the others.

Yet there is little hope of this abuse of children being cut down in view of government and parental preoccupation with sporting kudos.

Talent screening squads are busy going round kindergartens and schools measuring leg length to rump ratios, water displacement characteristics, foot pressure, carrying out coordination tests and entering details into long lists.

Battalions of children train, parents compensate for their own disappointments in life by revelling in their children's achievements and there is already such a thing as baby training in swimming, tots merely being regarded as the raw material of talent.

Eva Franke-Dönhoff & Brigitte Berendonk
(CHRIST UND WELT, 1 January 1971)

Aden	SA 0.05	Columbia	col. 1.1	Farman	NT 2.5	Indonesie	Sp. 15	Malawi	11 d	Paraguay	O. 15	Sudan	PT 5.0
Algeria	AI 10	Congo (Brazzaville)	F.C.F.A. 30	France	FF 0.60	Iran	RI 10	Mali	11 d	Philippines	Phil 0.60	Syria	Sy 1.5
Angola	DA 0.60	Congo (Kinshasa)	Makulu 7	Gabon	F.C.F.A. 30	Iraq	30	Mexico	11 d	Portugal	Port 0.60	Tanzania	Tan 0.35
Argentina	Arg. 1	Cuba	Cuba 0.13	Gambia	11 d	Israel	11 d	Morocco	DM 1.40	Romania	Rom 0.60	Togo	Tog 0.30
Australia	Aus. 1	Cyprus	Cypr 0.13	Guatemala	Guat 0.13	Italy	11 d	Mozambique	DM 1.40	Rwanda	Rwa 0.60	Tunisia	Tun 0.35
Austria	Aus. 2	Czechoslovakia	Ces 0.13	Haiti	Haiti 0.13	Japan	11 d	Nepal	Nepal 0.60	Senegal	Sen 0.60	Uganda	Uga 0.35
Belgium	Bel 0.60	Denmark	Den 0.13	Honduras	Hon 0.13	Jordan	11 d	Netherlands	Neth 0.60	Sierra Leone	Sierra 0.60	Uruguay	Uru 0.35
Bolivia	Bol 0.60	Ecuador	Ecu 0.13	Hong Kong	HK 0.13	Kazakhstan	11 d	Netherlands Antilles	Neth Ant 0.60	Somalia	Som 0.60	USA	USA 0.35
Brazil	Bra 0.60	El Salvador	El Sal 0.13	Hungary	Hun 0.13	Kenya	11 d	Nicaragua	Nicar 0.60	South Africa	South 0.60	USSR	USSR 0.35
Burkina Faso	Bur 0.60	Guinea	Guin 0.13	Iceland	Ice 0.13	Kuwait	11 d	Niger	Niger 0.60	Spain	Spa 0.60	Yugoslavia	Yug 0.35
Burundi	Bur 0.60	Guinea-Bissau	Guin B 0.13	India	Ind 0.13	Laos	11 d	Nigeria	Nig 0.60	Switzerland	Sch 0.60	Zambia	Zam 0.35
Cameroon	Cam 0.60	Haiti	Haiti 0.13	Indonesia	Indo 0.13	Lebanon	11 d	Norway	Nor 0.60	Taiwan	Tai 0.60		
Canada	Can 0.60	Honduras	Hon 0.13	Iran	Iran 0.13	Libya	11 d	Pakistan	Pak 0.60	Viet Nam	Viet 0.60		
Cape Verde	Cape 0.60	Hong Kong	HK 0.13	Israel	Isr 0.13	Luxembourg	11 d	Panama	Pan 0.60				
Ceylon	Cey 0.60	Hungary	Hun 0.13	Italy	Ita 0.13	Madagascar	11 d						
Chile	Chi 0.60	Iceland	Ice 0.13	Japan	Jap 0.13								